



**December 24, 2023 — 4 pm
Christmas Eve**

Flemington Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Service ~ Light

December 24, 2023

4:00 pm

Prelude

Carols of Joy and Wonder
Celebration of Christmas
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Steven Scott
James Mansfield
Robert W. Thygeron

Gathering as God's Family

Introit

Today a Savior Is Born

Lynn Shaw Bailey

Today a Savior is born for you. Glory to God in the highest! This will be a sign to you, the babe asleep on the hay. Tell the news to everyone, Jesus, Messiah, is born today! Shepherds ran to Bethlehem to see the babe on the hay. Angels in the heavens sang, "Jesus, Messiah, is born today." Today a Savior is born for you. Glory to God in the highest!

Melody Singers

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Russell Family

Call to Worship

Anabel Baxter

One: Tonight, we light the Christ candle, for we have been told... "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined."

All: Christ Jesus, Emmanuel, has arrived! The light shines in the darkness.

One: O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

All: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

Hymn (seated)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

No. 88

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Advent Prayer (unison)

Emmanuel, you have arrived. Your light shines brightly in our dark world. Help us to listen for your wisdom. Fill our hearts with hope. Grant us your peace. Illuminate our lives with joy and inspire us to love with compassion and grace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Amy E. S. Lincoln

*Carol (stand)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Preparation for Scripture

Anne Philip

Scriptures

Micah 5:2-5a

Isaiah 9: 2-3, 6-7

Isaiah 11: 1-4, 10

Anne Philip

Alyssa Kuhn

Oliver Ruppel

Anthem

Starry Night

Joyful Ringers

Brenda E. Austin

The Nativity of Christ

Adapted from *The First Christmas* by Louise Egan

Narrator: ... and they went back to living their quiet lives, keeping God's secret only between themselves.

Carol (remain seated) *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Narrator:because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol *Away in a Manger*

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head,
the stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the
hay.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay; close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care; and fit us for heaven to live with Thee
there.**

Shepherd: Let us see this wonderful child that God has told us about!

Carol *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in
reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; come adore on bended
knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Narrator:“The Lord our Savior has come!”

Carol *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the
mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout
the heavens, there shone a holy light. (Refrain)**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth, rang out the angel
chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)**

Wise ManIt may take us a while, but let's follow it! Come on, let's go!

Carol *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

**We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor
and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal
beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

Narrator: join us when we celebrate Epiphany Sunday, on January 7 to hear the end of
their story!

Carol *The First Nowell*

Then entered in those wise men three, fell reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Narrator: guided by FAITH and surrounded in LOVE!

Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild He lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Responding to God's Greatest Gift

Offerings and Christmas Joy Offerings

Alyssa Kuhn

We invite you to consider giving out of gratitude to God either as we pass the offering plate or by placing your offering in the wooden box hanging on the wall at each exit, scanning the QR code in your pew and/or giving online through the church website at www.flemingtonpres.org, or mailing a check to the church office at 10 East Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822. We give thanks for your generosity, allowing our mission and ministry together to continue.

Prayer of Dedication

*Carol (stand) *Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light. With the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King. Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Going into God's World With Joy

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Amy E.S. Lincoln

*Carol

Joy to the World

(All children are invited forward to receive rhythm instruments.)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns, let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

(Please return all instruments.)

*Postlude

Joy to the World

Albin C. Whitworth

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please give generously.

Participants

Narrator 1 - Jocelyn Willis **Narrator 2** - Mark Philip

Gabriel - Emma Smith

Mary - Alana Henderson **Joseph** - Michael Smits

Caesar - Thomas Philip

Soldiers - Luke Flessner

Wise People –Jack Flessner, Ashely Kuhn, Penny Russell

Angels - Abigail Olivero, Addison Pilgrim, Juliet Russell, Evelyn Short, Grace Short, Hadley Young

Inn Keepers - Elizabeth Golebiewski, Lily Flessner

Shepherds - Andrew Golebiewski, Emmy Pilgrim, Cecilia Ruppel, McKinley Young

Sheep –Emily Golebiewski

Star - Skylar Day

Ushers - Hailey Faber, Connor Stager

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Rev. Amy E. S. Lincoln, Pastor
Cindy Hall, Office Manager
Jennifer Miller, Youth Coordinator

J. Jay Smith, Director of Music/Organist
Margaret Sheneman, Director of Handbells
Marion Barry, Sexton
Hubert King, audio/video engineer