



KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 2023

4:30 PM

Luke 1:78-79

⁷⁸ Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Welcome and Centering for Worship

Jesus: God's Grace to Us From the Beginning – The Foundation of Our Hope

John 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle – Hope

O Come, All Ye Faithful - #173

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;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

True God of true God, Light from Light eternal,
lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest"; (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

Jesus: God's Presence Among Us – The Source of Our Peace The State of the World – Prayers of Intercession

O Little Town of Bethlehem - #155

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

The State of Our Hearts – Prayers of Confession

Romans 3:23-24

²³ all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ [yet] they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Isaiah 9:2-6

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle - Peace

Lo How a Rose 'Er Blooming - #163

Lo! how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as saints of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

Jesus: The Good News for All People – The Reason for Our Joy

Luke 2:1-14

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle – Joy **Angels We Have Heard on High - #152**

Angels we have heard on high sweetly
singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
[Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem, and see him
whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
[Refrain]

Jesus: God with Us – The Full Revelation of Love

1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle – Love Of the Father's Love Begotten - #145

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!
Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

Luke 2:15-18

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reflection

Lighting of the Christ Candle

What Child is This? - #150

What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping,
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.
Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be born for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to laud him.

The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

~Lights Off~

John 1:1-5

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Lighting of our candles from the Christ candle

Open Up John Arndt / David Gungor © 2011

You heard the cry of our hearts and you came down
Freely you gave us your love, showing us how

Make us instruments of your peace
Where there is hatred let us show love
Where there is darkness let us shine light and
May your love cause us to open up
Cause us to open up our hearts
May your light cause us to shine so bright
That we bring hope into the dark

Silent Night -Hymn #164

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!
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Benediction

Joy to the World - #146

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 earth! 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.
No more let sins and sorrows grow,

nor thorns infest the ground;
 he comes to make his blessings flow
 far as the curse is found,
 far as the curse is found,
 far as, far as the curse is found.
 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.

Thank you to our Leaders in Worship

Pastor: Rev. Drew Peterson

Pastor for Imaginative Worship: Rev. Dr. Taylor Telford

Worship Leaders: Lois Robertson, Nick Robertson, Camille Troxel, Carole Stuart

Audio/Video Technician: Jason Stuart

Greeter: Michael & Sandra Petitt

Upcoming Schedule

Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship	4:30 p.m.
Dec 31	New Years Eve Morning Worship	11:30 a.m.
Jan 7	Worship & Communion	11:30 a.m.

Announcements

Prayers

Middle East

Continue to pray for peace in the Ukraine, Gaza and Israel.

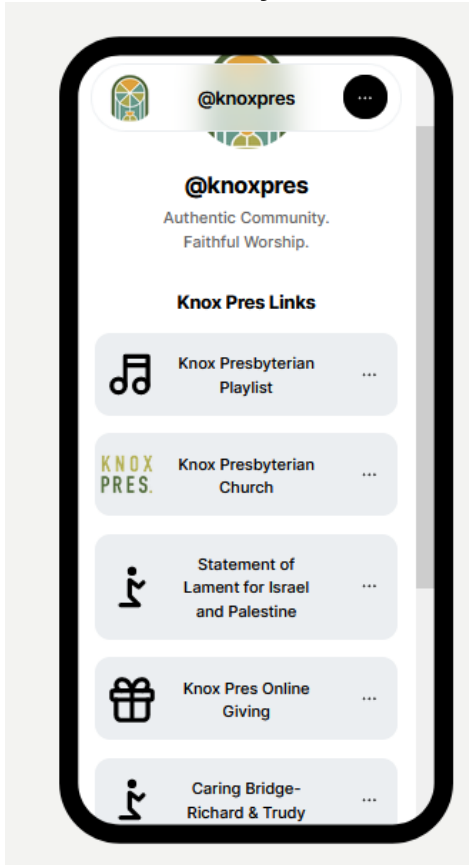
Richard Raymond

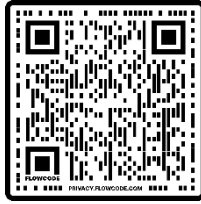
Pray for Richard Raymond's health, and strength for Trudy as they navigate through this uncertain time. You can leave a prayer and follow their journey on Caring Bridge **by scanning the Knox Link Tree QR Code below.**

Knox Presbyterian Church Link Tree QR Code



Scan the QR Code above with your phone camera to find Knox-specific links.
This is what you'll see:





Scan the QR code to Request a Meeting with the Pastor

Notes: