



Thursday, December 24, 2020 ~ Christmas Eve Service, Lessons and Carols
4:00 pm Worship (Sanctuary, live stream only)

Pre-Worship Christmas Choral Concert (3:45 pm, live stream)

Choristers, Chapel Choir, and Adult Choir

Music in Preparation for Worship

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorius, Arr. Sylvia Woods

Still, Still, Still

Arr. Gary Schocker

Caitlin Mehrtens, Harp

Call to Worship (based on John 1, NRSV)

Rev. Spencer

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Tonight, the Word is with us — Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Let the weary world rejoice!

The good news of Jesus' birth shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

Let the weary world rejoice!

The newborn cries of Jesus declare that God became flesh and lived among us. His entrance into human history means new life, hope and grace for all.

Let the weary world rejoice!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Spencer

We light these candles as a sign of the coming and now present light of Christ. Hear the promise as we find it in the Gospel of John. "The Word became flesh and lived among us." Let God's people say:

"And we have seen his glory, the glory of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

Let us worship Jesus Christ, our newborn Savior and Lord!

Prayer of Praise

Kelly LePenske

First Lesson: God Promises

Kelly LePenske

Luke 1: 30-32; 34-35; 37 (NRSV)

³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God... ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Mengel

Chapel Choir
Karen Molloy, Piano

Second Lesson: God Blesses

Rev. Spencer

Based on Luke 1: 68-72 (NRSV)

The Lord's grace is sure. God has looked with favor upon his people and redeemed them. God has raised up a mighty Savior from the house of David so that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. God has shown mercy and has remembered his promises. Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven has broken upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace. Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to God's people on earth.

The First Noel

Arr. Gary Schocker

Caitlin Mehrtens, Harp

Third Lesson: God Arrives

Kelly LePenske

Luke 2: 4-7 (NRSV)

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 for them in the inn.

Joseph, Dearest

Arr. Anderson

Chapel Choir
Karen Molloy, Piano

Fourth Lesson: God Announces

Rev. Spencer

Luke 2: 8-14 (NRSV)

⁸In that 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!"

Noel, Noel, Noel

Chapel Choir

Strid

Christmas Offering

Kelly LePenske

Please remember the church in your year-end giving and consider how God may be calling you to bring hope and love to others through prayer, service and financial gifts. [Give easily online](#) or directly from your phone by [using the Church Center App](#). Thank you to all who are generously giving by mail or electronically. Your faithfulness has allowed the church to support its staff and responsibilities during this pandemic. For questions or help, contact the church office at 856.235.1688.

Offertory Music

What Child is This?

Caitlin Mehrtens, Harp

Dix / Arr. Milligan

Message

Rev. Spencer

"Shepherds! Fear Not!"

Sermon text: Luke 2: 8-14 (see Fourth Lesson)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Spencer

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution – Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Gifts of Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lighting of the Candles

Kelly LePenske

Christmas Prayer and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Kelly LePenske

Carol

Silent Night! Holy 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! 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.

Christmas Benediction

Rev. Spencer

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Ministry

Audio Technician:	Harris E. Ransom
Live Video Streaming:	Harris A. Ransom
Property Staff:	Ken Wehn, Steve Cashmer, and Steve Margerum

- **Members were recently mailed** a [letter from Pastor Stuart](#) recapping our historic year of 2020 and sharing information about [end of year giving opportunities](#) including Christmas Green, our annual holiday offering.
- **Live Stream Worship** -- On Sunday, December 27 at 9:30 am, Stuart Spencer preaches "The Mouse, the sink, and the Bowl," a Christmas Sermon.
- **Holiday Hours:** The church office will be closed Monday, Dec. 28. The office will be open on a limited basis throughout the week, open until 1:00 p.m. on Dec. 31 and closed January 1, 2021. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the FPC Moorestown staff!