



December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
8:00 p.m.

Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.



Liturgy for this service is adapted from A Sanctified Art

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

Overture from The Messiah
Sinfonia from Christmas Oratorio
Silent Night

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Yena Hwang

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Karen Growney & Scott Moore Family

ONE: Rejoice! I bring good news for all people. Unto us a child is born.

Tonight, the angels sing on earth. Glory to God in the highest!

ALL: Tonight, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ Candle. For surely God is in this place. Surely the Spirit is near. Surely love knows our name.

ONE: A light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

ALL: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy as we worship God's holy child born to us this night. Alleluia!

*** HYMN 107** (vv. 1, 4)

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

**Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and
fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless
story; may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.**

*** UNISON PRAYER**

Megan Klose

**Glorious God, on this Christmas Eve, we sing beloved carols of
Bethlehem, of shepherd and angels, of Mary and Joseph, and the infant
Jesus, our Savior. We sing a song of exultation with the whole creation
and welcome you once again: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace! Come and rule our hearts! Amen.**

*** SUNG RESPONSE** (Hymn 113, v. 1)

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!**

*** PASSING THE PEACE**

ONE: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

** Please stand in body or spirit*

Lessons and Carols

LESSON I

Megan Klose

God promises Abraham that all the nations of the earth shall be blessed through him.

Genesis 12:1-4

ANTHEM

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Trevor Manor (b. 1985)

Chancel Choir & String Quartet

*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 a 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!

*This is He whom heaven-taught singers sang of old with one accord,
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word.*

Now He shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!

*O ye heights of heaven, adore Him, angel hosts, His praises sing:
Powers, dominions, bow before Him and extol our God and King.*

Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

LESSON II

Ethan Moore

A Messiah, the Prince of Peace, is foretold by the prophet.

Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN 119 (vv. 1, 2)

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!"
Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

LESSON III

Cassie Dowty

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2-5a

ANTHEM

O Bethlehem

Christin Kieckhafer (b. 1987)

Chancel Choir; Rosanna Butterfield, cello

O Bethlehem, how still you lie. Above your dreamless sleep silent stars go by.

O Bethlehem, how dark the night within your shadowed streets shines the Everlasting Light.

O Bethlehem, how silently He came. Greatest gift from heaven without wealth or fame.

O Bethlehem, how great your hope and fear. Lay to rest your wearied past, Your Promised One is near.

O Bethlehem, the Heavens shone bright! In a field not far away, shepherds witnessed the sight.

O Bethlehem, how the angels sing! O hear them proclaim the birth of the King of kings,

O Bethlehem, He's come to us. O Bethlehem, He abides with us.

O Bethlehem, hear the angels tell how the Great I Am has become Emmanuel. O Bethlehem.

LESSON IV

Eric Rasmussen

An angel appears to Mary.

Luke 1:26-38

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Pastoral Symphony from The Messiah

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

String Quartet

LESSON V

Izzy Martin

Joseph and Mary journey to Bethlehem where Jesus is born.

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN 121 (vv. 1-3)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,

where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

LESSON VI

Drew Luten

The shepherds learn of the birth of Jesus and go to Bethlehem.

Luke 2:8-16

* HYMN 133 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

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!

LESSON VII

Yena Hwang

The Word, the Light that shines in the darkness.

John 1:1-5, 10-14

ANTHEM

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus and Cum Sancto Spiritu from Gloria

A. Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Chancel Choir & String Quartet

Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus. Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.

Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Translation: For thou alone holy. Thou alone Lord.

Thou alone most high, Jesus Christ.

With Holy Spirit in the glory of God Father. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Megan Klose

Please support the mission and ministry of the church with your financial contributions. Offerings can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, given online through our secure giving portal (fpc.breezechms.com/give/online), texted to give at 7037751355, or scanned using the QR code.



OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

arr. Sally Deford (b.1959)

Chancel Choir & String Quartet

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining; 'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born. O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,

And in His name, all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we. Let all within us Praise His Holy name.

Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim.

* DOXOLOGY (Tune: The First Noel)



Praise God__ from whom all__ bles - sings flow. Praise God, _ all crea - tures



here__ be - low. Praise God___ a - bove, ye__ heaven - ly



host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, _ and Ho - ly Ghost. No - well, __ No -



well, No - well, No - well__ Born is the King_ of Is - ra - el!

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Megan Klose

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your purpose and plans, bringing good news of great joy to all people. We pray the prayer our Lord taught us to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Candlelight Carols

*During the singing, ushers will bear the light to the congregation.
Please dip unlit candles into the lit candles.*

HYMN 123 (v. 1)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious
King”: the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

HYMN 115 (v. 1)

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 bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

HYMN 145 (v. 1)

What Child Is This

**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!**

HYMN 122

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! 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.

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.

"THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS"

As we celebrate the light that shines in the darkness, God incarnate given to us at Christmas, we also remember that we are called to be light for the world. The Church is the living body of Christ, and as individuals, we are each joined to Christ. And so, together and individually, we can carry the light of Christ into the darkness of our world. We will extinguish our candles before leaving tonight, but the light of Christ still burns in us. Let us walk in the light of the Lord and bring that light to the world.

HYMN 134

Joy to the World

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.

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

Yena Hwang

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah” from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

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A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this Christmas Eve.

Large-print bulletins are available at the sanctuary entrances.

Portable electronic assistive listening devices are available in the narthex; ushers can provide them upon request.

A recording of this service can be found at www.fallschurchpresby.org/sermon. If you would like to learn more about our family of faith, please talk to one of the pastors as you exit the sanctuary. More information can be found on our website.

Children in Worship

Children are always welcome in our services. Children’s bulletins and coloring sheets are available for children of all ages. Child care is available for infants and toddlers in Room 201 during this service.

Supporting Us in Worship

Worship Leaders	Karen Growney & Scott Moore Family, Ethan Moore, Cassie Dowty, Eric Rasmussen, Izzy Martin, Drew Luten
Ushers/Greeters	Izzy Armstrong, John Moses, Elizabeth Shipley-Moses, Nancy Butt Packard, Will Packard, Jack Sarver, Marnie Sarver, Rachel Skomra, Shelly Skomra
Audio/Video	Alexi Hawkins
Musicians	Patrick Lin and Derek Powell, violins; Erica Schwartz, viola; Rosanna Butterfield, cello

Thank you to Marnie Sarver and friends for decorating our church for the Christmas season.

Announcements

The Christmas Joy Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need, and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Special Offering envelopes are in the pews.

City of Falls Church Watch Night New Year's Eve events at FCPC, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7-11 p.m. Free events include the Northern Lights Big Band Orchestra, a Victorian Society photo parlor, an interactive children's concert, and a magic show.

Welcome Table served dinner to 484 guests on Dec. 18. Our next Wednesday dinners will be Jan. 1 and Jan. 15, 2025. New volunteers are always welcome and appreciated! Sign up using the link in the Friday egram or email the church office (office@fallschurchpresby.org).

Reading the Bible in 2025. Pastor Yena has set a goal of having the entire congregation read the Bible in the coming year. There will be many ways to engage with scripture: small groups reading the entire Bible or parts of the Bible together, an individual plan option, special Bible study classes, and fun competitions. Details about small groups will be coming soon.

Mini-Pantries Help Neighbors Feed Neighbors. You can help stock the Little Free Pantry outside in front of Fellowship Hall. Most needed are ready-to-eat items such as canned chili, stew, and fruit; cereal or breakfast bars; crackers; and shelf-stable milk; as well as tissues, toilet paper and disinfecting supplies. Items should be able to withstand very cold temperatures.

Youth Group Events

- **Confirmation Class of 2026.** If you are currently in 7th or 8th grade, come and learn about Confirmation on Sunday, Jan. 5, at 11:15 a.m. on the third floor. The Confirmation process will begin in February 2025 and finish up in April 2026. Please email Diane (dmaloney@fallschurchpresby.org) with questions or bring them to the January 5th info session.
- **Jan. 5, Youth Group Gathering** (grades 6-12), 6:00-7:30 p.m., Third Floor
- **Jan. 18-20, Winter Retreat,** Massanetta Springs & Massanutten

Kids Ministry Events

- **The Bridge** (grades 3-6) helps students explore faith through fun and games and sharing their own stories, and includes occasional activities such as bowling and miniature golf. The next Bridge gathering is Sunday, Jan. 12, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. and will meet on the third floor. Contact Diane Maloney with questions.
- **Godly Play**, for ages 4 and up, teaches children through story, play, and discovery. Godly Play resumes Sunday, Jan. 5, during the 10:00 service.
- **BibleFun with Mr. Tom**, for children up to age 4, includes Bible story time, free play, and a craft. BibleFun meets most Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 206. The 2025 schedule will be coming soon.

Free Concert! Indie/folk singer-songwriter Matthew Black sings “passionate, provocative songs that will feed your soul.” Matthew is from Louisville, Kentucky, and will be offering a free concert at FCPC on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Interested in Falls Church Presbyterian Church? Pastor Yena is holding a 1.5-hour class for people who are considering becoming a part of this community of faith, those who are new to the community, or those who would simply like to explore what it means to follow Jesus in the Presbyterian tradition. The class will be on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the Conference Room. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

FCPC's Crooked Steeple Literary Festival is hosting author Amina Luqman-Dawson, author of *Freewater*, on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 2:00 p.m. *Freewater* is a Newbery and Coretta Scott King Award-winning novel designed for middle grades. We hope to have lots of younger readers at this event. At each Crooked Steeple event, the author shares from their text, is interviewed, and signs books for readers. The event is free of charge; donations to support Crooked Steeple are appreciated.

Church Calendar

Wednesday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day – Church office closed

Sunday, Dec. 29 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person or online

Tuesday, Dec. 31 – City of Falls Church Watch Night, 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Free Watch Night events at FCPC include the Northern Lights Big Band Orchestra, a Victorian Society photo parlor, an interactive children's concert, and a magic show.

Wednesday, Jan. 1 – New Year's Day – Church office closed

Sunday, Jan. 5 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany of the Lord

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person or online

Sunday, Jan. 12 – Baptism of the Lord

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person or online

Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”

Falls Church Presbyterian is also a Matthew 25 church seeking to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty.

The Rev. Yena Hwang, Pastor

The Rev. Megan Klose, Associate Pastor

Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music

Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

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