# **Providence Presbyterian Church**

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

#### SPECIAL MUSIC PRELUDE

"Sing We Now of Christmas	" Bell Choir, Carol Young	g arr. Krug
"Still, Still, Still"	Sue Payne, Pastor Hilary	Austrian Carol
"O Holy Night"	Amanda Yeager, Barb Hazlett	arr. Lanier
"Calypso"	Women's Ensemble	arr. Raney
"Ukrainian Bell Carol"	Alyssa Conway, Riann Edson	arr. Phillips
"Birthday of A King"	Men's Ensemble	arr. DeCesare
"Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabe	ella" Dr. Carole Parsons	arr. Ritter
"What Her Heart Remember	ed" Rick Herbster	Michael Card

#### **GREETING & WELCOME**

#### \*Responsive Call to Worship

What kind of hope can endure this world?

The hope and fears of all the years are met right here tonight.

How can we speak peace when the world is at war?

Tonight, there will be heavenly peace and mercy mild; God and sinners, reconciled.

Where is the joy of celebration when so many are hungry and hurting?

All heaven and nature sing; the weary world rejoices.

When will love come and save us?

The wonders of God's love are made flesh tonight. The angels sing "Gloria," and we have nothing to fear.

### Lighting of the Advent Candles & Christ Candle Litany

Readers are from Session

<u>Reader:</u> With the candle of hope, we light the way for those who will come after us, just as the prophets before lit the path for us. We carry the light as we journey to Bethlehem. The child of hope brings good news for the world; news of hope endures through all fear.

<u>Reader:</u> This is the light of peace, to honor the child who will teach us the way. Mary knew that her baby would be the one to end all war. We witness to the light, doing our part to create a nonviolent world. We welcome the Prince of Peace, who casts out all fear.

<u>Reader:</u> A flame of joy flickers and grows against the darkness. It burns brightest when we are together. God's joy comes to live among us and in the longest, darkest nights, we find joy that releases us from fear.

*Reader*: The light of love always shows the way. For the holy family on a dark night in Bethlehem, and for all who come to worship the child, who

is God with us. Love still shows us where to go: a way there is no way and a light that knows no fear.

<u>Reader:</u> We welcome hope, peace, joy, and love tonight. The light of the world is born, bringing all that and more! It is a light for the ages. God's people answer the call to keep the light and shine it for all to see. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

## \*Unison Prayer

God of hope, Joyful Spirit, Prince of Peace and Lord of Love, we wait for you to come live among us. Tonight we learn a new name for you: God with us, Immanuel. It is as old as the ages and as new as a newborn baby's cry. We wait, believing what all our prophets told us is true: that your grace is sufficient and that your love will transform the world. Guide us and keep us, Lord. As you step into our world again, may you find your people ready. Amen.

\*Processional Carol "O Come All Ye Faithful" # 133 After this carol, please remain seated for the remaining carols until "Silent Night"

First Lesson	Luke 2: 1-7	
ANTHEM	"Innkeeper"	Roger Emerson
Second Lesson	Luke 2: 8-14	
Carols	"Angels We Have Heard on High" "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"	# 113 vs. 1, 3 # 119 vs. 1, 3
Third Lesson:	Luke 2: 15-20	
Carols	"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" "Away in a Manger"	#128 vs. 1, 2 # 115 vs. 1, 3

### Offering

"For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9

Tonight's offering goes to the PCUSA denomination's "Christmas Joy" offering which provides assistance to current/retired church workers and Presbyterian-related schools/colleges equipping communities of color.

Offertory "On Christmas Night" Kosche

Carol "What Child Is This?" # 145 vs. 1, 3 Fourth Lesson John 1: 1-5, 14-18 Sermon "Sacred Disruptions" Christmas Prayer for a Weary World **Congregational Candle Lighting** "Silent Night" Carol # 122 Benediction "Joy to the World" \*Recessional Carol # 134 \*Postlude "Joy to the World!" Page

<sup>\*</sup>Those who are able please stand