

ORDER OF WORSHIP CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2017

7:30 p.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Welcome

Steeple Bell

Choral Introit

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Spock Family

Jesus has come-

and will come again, as God's hope, peace, joy and love for us.

We bear witness to the light of Christ, and the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ, with all the faithful in every time and place.

With the prophet Isaiah,

We await the promised coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness,

we see that the kingdom of God has come near, and we prepare our hearts for his coming.

With Mary, the mother of Jesus,

we magnify the Lord, and rejoice in God's salvation.

With the writers of the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,

we tell the good news of how God so loved the world that God sent Jesus, God's gift of love, born to be our Savior.

With the choirs of angels, and all the heavenly host,
we join in singing: **“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth,
peace and goodwill to all.”**

‘For a child has been born for us, a son given to us...
**...and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.’**

(the Christ Candle is lighted)

The light shines in the darkness –
And the darkness shall not overcome it!

***Hymn #133(vs 1-3) “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

**God of Glory, we praise you and celebrate your great gift of love,
Jesus our Savior. His birth gives us cause to rejoice with the angels;
yet we confess spirits weighed down with dissatisfaction. His coming
showed us your way; yet we choose to follow our own way. His birth
assures us that you know the pain of being human; yet we forget that
your compassionate presence is only a prayer away. He is the Light of
the World, but we choose darkness. He is the Prince of Peace, and yet
we fight. Forgive us for the ways we have received your great gift of
love and hope. Prepare room in our hearts to welcome him anew and
to know the joy of our salvation...**

(silent prayers)

Assurance of Pardon

***Response Hymn #121 v.4**

**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.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

First Lesson The Promise is Given Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Anthem “Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming” Arr. Michael Larkin
Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung. Of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old hath sung. It came a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when halfspent 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 halfspent was the night. When halfspent was the night.

Second Lesson The Decree and Journey Luke 2:1-7

Hymn #121 vs 1&2 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Third Lesson The Birth is Proclaimed Luke 2:8-14

Hymn #113 vs 1&3 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Fourth Lesson The Christ Child is Found Luke 2:15-20

Anthem “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” Michael Larkin
Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger. There he lay the undefiled, to the world a stranger. Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior? Ask the saved of all the race who have his favor, his favor. Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him. Heaven's star shone brightly forth. Glory all round him. Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, hear the angels singing. All the plains were lit that night; all the hills are ringing, are ringing. Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger. He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger. Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story. Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory, of glory. Hail the King of glory, of glory.

Meditation “Jesus Has Left the Building”

*Hymn #119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Prayer

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory “O Holy Night” Cappeau/Adams

Sarah McCann, Soprano

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till 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! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wisemen from the Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger; In all our trials born to be our friend; He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger; Behold your King! Before the Lowly bend! Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains he shall 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! Then ever, ever praise we; His power and glory ever-more proclaim!

***Response (#145 v.3)**

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;

Come, one and all, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;

Let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King,

whom shepherds guard and angels sing.

Haste, hast to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, we thank you for all of your gifts to us. But above all we know that the greatest gift is the gift that began in a manger, your gift of love born in Jesus. In the face of such love, may we become more loving. In the face of such a gift, may we live more generously. In the way of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

The Celebration of Light

A candle will be lit from the Christ Candle and spread among us by lighting the candle of the first person in each pew. That person will offer the light to the next. Please always dip the unlighted candle into the lighted one, as we share the light of Christ that has come into the world. As we do, we will sing

Hymn #122 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

***Charge and Benediction**

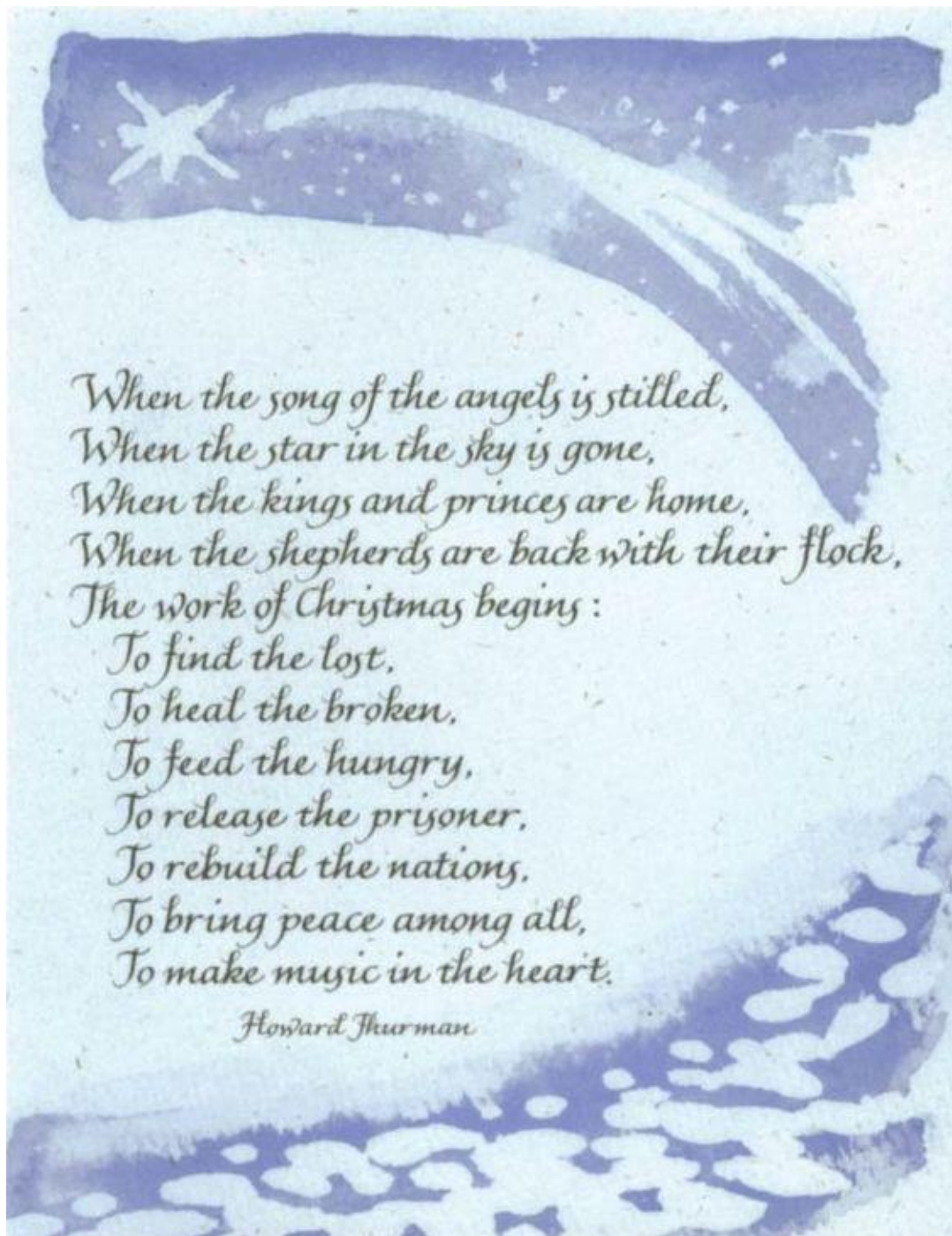
***Congregational Response**

**Joy to the word, 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.**

Organ Postlude

You may recycle your bulletins in the basket at the back of the Meeting House.

**Thank you for serving today:
Worship Leader: Mark Rappold
Ushers: Jim & Barbara Whisman**



*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins :
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman

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Our Mission

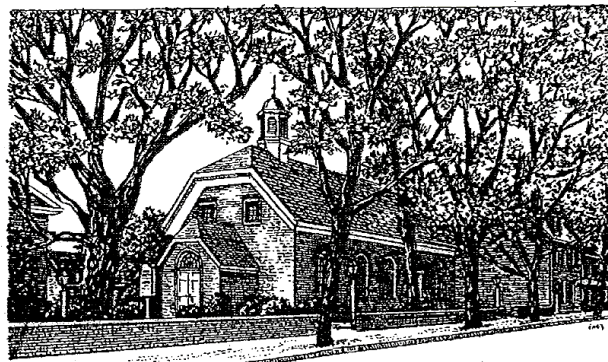
New Castle Presbyterian Church offers a nurturing and supportive church community where all are welcomed to join in prayer and song, study and service as all are called to demonstrate understanding, compassion, and acceptance.

By God's Spoken Word and Holy Spirit, we seek to live out the Gospel of the Risen Christ, as we grow spiritually, in strength, and with inclusiveness.

We worship God in simplicity and with clarity; we study God's Word to direct our lives; and we nurture the young and the searchers in our midst.

As a congregation and in cooperation with others, we engage in service and outreach with the local community and the world. We work to feed, clothe, and shelter our brothers and sisters while sharing the selfless and forgiving love of Jesus Christ.

As we have been blessed, we seek to use all that we have to bless others with this good news of grace and joy.



New Castle Presbyterian Church ~ Built 1707 ~ New Castle, Delaware