

SERVING THE CHURCH Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse

Ushers: Linda Stenhouse, Jackie Koch

Elder of the Month

For December: Candie Vaitkevicius, 864-631-1010(H); 630-247-9507 (cell)

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2023

Barb Daugherty
Bill Marshall (NS)
Ronnie Storch

Class of 2024

Linda Stenhouse
Jackie Koch
Candie Vaitkevicius

Class of 2025

Barb Daugherty
Bill Marshall NS
Linda Marshall



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Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch, Pastor
Darrell Johnson, Pianist Jackie Koch, Office Administrator
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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Sunday, December 24, 2023

Simpsonville Presbyterian Church

Simpsonville, SC

"Growing Together in Faith - Loving and Serving in the World"

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Dec. 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Welcome, announcements

Prayers and Concerns

Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch has office hours on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.—
Noon. For an appointment, please call the Church office.

Please note that the wearing of masks during service and singing hymns
is optional. NOTE: This service may be video recorded.

Please stand if you are able where asterisk.

PRELUDE "Still, Still, Still" arr. Herbster

***OUR CALL TO WORSHIP** Linda Stenhouse, Liturgist

Leader: Darkness is all around,

People: but great things happen in the dark.

Leader: Seeds planted in the dark bloom into flowers.

People: Humans formed in the dark are born.

Leader: From within the night, we see a great light.

People: That light is the presence of God.

Leader: We greet a child, Emmanuel, God with us. Let us live in the
light of the coming of Christ.

All: Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN: #22 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"**

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER: Reading: Kyle Ward

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Barb & Roger Daugherty

RESPONSE: Advent Song (verse 5 and refrain) (bulletin insert)

RESPONSE: "While We Are Waiting, Come"

While we are waiting come

While we are waiting come

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

While we are waiting come .

HYMN #24 "Away in a Manger"





SILENT PRAYER: A few moments of silent communication with God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 Pastor Mary, LOG

TIME WITH CHILDREN Pastor Mary, LOG

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 2:1-20 Rev. Dr. Mary Ann, SPC

SERMON: "O Holy Night" Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Welch

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:
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.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift then up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

.....

Leader: ...and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Pastor Mary, LOG

***CLOSING HYMN "Silent Night" (bulletin insert)**

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE: HYMN #40 "Joy to the World"**

POSTLUDE "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

Parry

WELCOME TO SIMPSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN! Whether you are a long-time member or first time visitor, we are glad you are here. If you would like to learn more about the Simpsonville Presbyterian community, we invite you to contact us through our website www.simpsonvillepres.com, or by calling the church office at (864)963-8854.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS this evening are the beautiful poinsettias purchased in honor of and in memory of loved ones and special people. Those who indicated they want to take their flower(s) home may do so after this service .

BIBLE STORY BAGS are available for children during worship. See an usher if you would like one for your child to use. Please return the bag to an usher after worship.

VIDEO RECORDINGS: Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: www.simpsonvillepres.com. Click on "Videos" in the menu at the top or click on the picture of a worship service in the lower right