



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN MORRISTOWN

December 24, 2020

Nativity of the Lord

Celebration of Worship

Prelude

Carol of the Bells
The Ringers on the Green

arr. Jason W. Krug

Call to Worship (*responsively*)

The Reverend Dr. Ed Halldorson

One: Where there is despair and hopelessness, where there is sadness
and grief,

Many: help us to bring the Light of Christ.

One: Where there is sickness and suffering, violence, prejudice, cruelty,
hatred and domination,

Many: help us to bring the Light of Christ.

**All: O Lord, so fill us with your love, your peace, and your
goodness that doubt and mistrust may be dispelled within
us and we may be Christ's light in a world of strife.**

(Written by Susan R. Tomlinson)

Hymn 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

Confession and Pardon

The Reverend Sarah Green

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Your grace, O God, has appeared for the salvation of all, calling us to
renounce false gods and irresponsible love. In the midst of our sin,
Christ has appeared as a sign of our hope, redeeming us and calling us
to be a people eager to do your will. Make us zealous for good deeds in
response to your wonderful deed in Jesus Christ. We confess the vain
worship of ourselves and our neglect of your children. Forgive us and
empower us to live upright and godly lives in this world. Amen.

(From When We Pray by James Kirk)

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)*

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

Many: **The old life has gone; a new life has begun.**

One: Friends, believe the gospel

Many: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

Patrick Allred

God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12

Michael Hoppes

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Gifts of the Magi

Rev. Dr. Halldorson

Anthem

Mid-winter
The Chancel Choir and Friends

Bob Chilcott

Lighting of the Advent & Christ Candles

One: Come, O light of the world. Shine in the darkness.

All (1): **The darkness shall never overcome the light.**

All (2): **The days are coming when God shall raise up a righteous branch.**

All (3): **There will be a new heaven and a new earth.**

All (4): **O Rising Dawn, we greet you.**

All: **Immanuel, dwell with us here.**

Hymn 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

Ringling in of Christmas

Hymn 134

Joy to the World

Antioch

Benediction

Today's service is led by the Reverend Dr. Ed Halldorson, the Reverend Sarah Green, Dr. Matthew Webb, Alexandra Mead, Patrick Allred, Michael Hoppes, Kevin Graf, the Chancel Choir, the Ringers on the Green, and the Chancel Ringers.

Thank you to Craig Barth, Carolyn Crosthwaite, Bruce Frazier, Richard Parke, Sheldon Rajkumar, and Jenny Tooley for their assistance.

Thank you to members of the congregation for your flower donations this past year.

The Reverend Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp will begin as our Interim Pastor in January 2021.

Sunday Morning Worship is available online.

The service will be posted on the website on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m.



The Presbyterian Church in Morristown

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