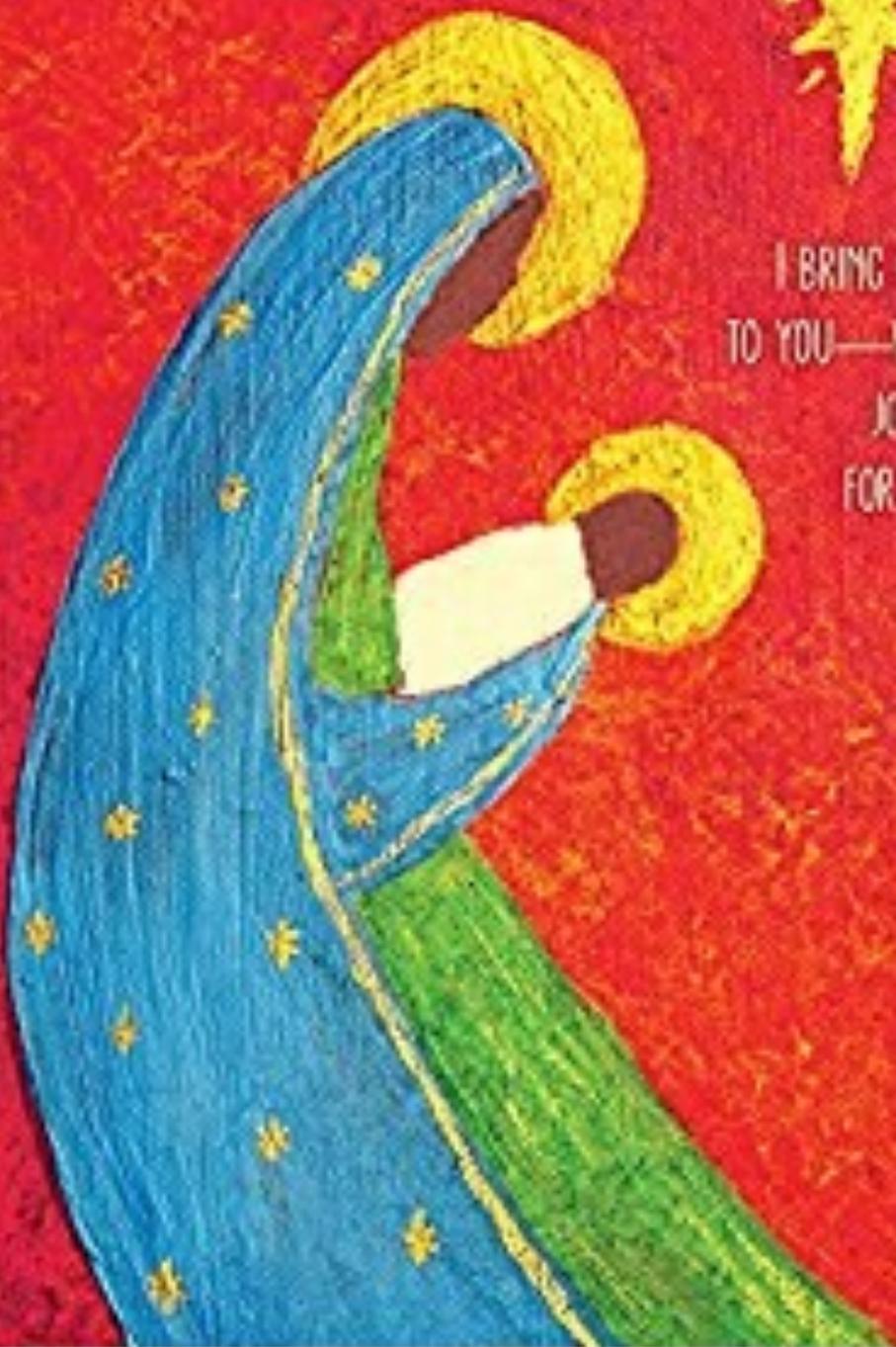




I BRING GOOD NEWS
TO YOU—WONDERFUL,
JOYOUS NEWS
FOR ALL PEOPLE.

-Luke 2:10





CHRISTMAS EVE † DECEMBER 24, 2017

4:00 pm Family Contemporary Worship

A community centered in Christ, gathering in love, growing by grace, going forth to serve.

Welcome!

We're glad YOU are here!

All children and youth are invited to participate as a character (animal or angel) in the Nativity Scene. Costumes are in the Emmaus Room (back of Sanctuary). Please join in the fun!



A hearing loop is available. Please speak to an Usher.

OPENING PRAISE

Prelude He Has Come For Us Meredith Andrews, 2009

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay. Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Refrain: He has come for us, this Jesus. He's the hope for all mankind.

He has come for us, the Messiah. Born to give us life.

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came. And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same. How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

All the angels sing, "Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is born!"

All the children sing, "Hallelujah! He is Christ the Lord!" (Refrain)

Greeting & Opening Prayer (in unison)

Amazing God, on this night so long ago, You gathered a group of unlikely outsiders – Mary, Joseph, shepherds and others to be part of a great miracle: the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Today You have sought us out and brought us to the manger. You have interrupted our routines with Your Good News. You have gathered this unlikely assortment of folk to become a holy people, a community of faith, who witness this night and gift of love together. Help us receive you renewing love as we praise You on this Holy Night. AMEN.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Carol O Come, All Ye Faithful arr. Paul Baloche, 2013

Call to Worship (Leader/People)

Come, holy people, called by God, let us follow the way prepared for us.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among all peoples.

Once again the world is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God surpasses what is expected.

Let us go to Bethlehem to see what God has made known to us.

There in Bethlehem and here today in Madison, we are reminded anew of the wonder of God's ways.

Let us glorify and praise God for all that we have seen and heard!

Carol Angels from the Realms of Glory arr. Brad Henderson, 2007

COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Nativity Scene: The Night Before Christmas

Tonight we will hear the story of Christ's birth in a new way. This poem is based off the popular story: The Night Before Christmas. We hope hearing the story in a fresh way will give us new eyes to see and ears to hear!

All children and youth are invited to participate in tonight's impromptu nativity scene as an angel or an animal. Costumes are available in the back of the Sanctuary. The characters will be invited forward during the carols below. Parents are welcome to accompany their children forward as desired.

Please join in singing! Lyrics are projected & music may be found in the hymnal.

Carols

Angels We Have Heard on High

(All ANGELS are invited to come forward to the manger)

The First Noel

(All ANIMALS are invited to come forward to the manger)

We Three Kings

(The Wise Ones make their way to the manger)

Joy to the World

(All children & families remaining are invited forward to the manger)

Children at the Manger

Sharing the Peace of Christ

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve Message

Receiving Christmas

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A Christmas Eve Offering

Tonight's offering benefits the Christmas Joy Offering.

WORSHIP SERVICE

PARTICIPANTS

Ministers

The People
Especially the CHILDREN

Preacher

Dale Chapin

Contemporary Music Director, Piano, Vocals

Natalie Handley

Dancers

Mariana Vieth
Lindsey Barge

Youth Dancers

Trinity Kulp
Faye Bencze
Kate Mayefske,
choreography

Narrators

Laura Andrews
Chris VanderArk

Vocals

Aaron Considine
Laura Andrews
Nadya Braaksma
Trinity Kulp

Acoustic Guitar, Vocals

Derek Handley

Electric Guitar

Abe Lee

Bass Guitar

Mary Strait

Drums

Steve Porter

Bells

Carol Quintana
John Heaton

Sound & AV

Brandon Andrews
Sue Fenton

First Impressions Greeters

Sara Lubbers
Matt Vieth
Cheryl Shult

The Offertory

Unto Us (Isaiah 9)

Dave and Jess Ray, 2015

On the people, who were walking in darkness, into the darkness has shined a light.
And on those who were living in darkness, deep in the darkness has dawned a light.
And He is light and life to all mankind.

*Refrain: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and His name shall be
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting One, unto us!*

*And the government, it shall be upon His shoulders
and the greatness and peace of His kingdom never ends. (Refrain)*

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Distributing the Light of Christ

*The greeters will light the candle of the first worshipper in each row.
Please tilt your candle to receive the light and hold it upright for your neighbor.
Parents, please assist your children in lighting and holding the candles.*

Candlelight Carols

Away in a Manger

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Silent Night

A Blessing for Christmas

*Please place your candle in the basket on your way out of the Sanctuary.
Thank you for sharing in the joy of Christmas Eve together here tonight.*

Merry Christmas!

Thank you for worshiping with us!

Join us again:

9pm Candlelight Service

New Years Eve Day and all Sundays:

9am Classical & 11am Contemporary

(Children's programming is offered)

Christ Presbyterian Church

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