

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

## A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2017

11:00 P.M.

### Thought for Reflection

“On Christmas Day, we remember that we have been handed the greatest gift: a manger box filled with the gift of a child who changes everything. Here is everything we have ever needed. Here is the fullness of God and the fullness of humanity. It’s a box containing danger for a world in darkness, but the ultimate gift of life for all who will receive him. He is a gift offered for all of us.”

Helena Leen

### God Invites Us to Worship

PRELUDE *Noel* Dubois  
*Improvisation on “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”* Binckes  
MUSICAL OFFERING *Gesu Bambino* Yon  
Kathy Barbehenn

WELCOME

### Lighting the Christ Candle

A BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

\* BIDDING CAROL *Once in Royal David’s City* # 49

**FIRST LESSON** *Genesis 3:8-15* p. 2

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.

CAROL *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* # 1

**SECOND LESSON** *Genesis 22:15-18* p. 16

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

CAROL *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* # 9

**THIRD LESSON** *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7* p. 555

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

CAROL *People, Look East* # 12

**FOURTH LESSONS** *Isaiah 11:1-9* p. 558

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

CAROL *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming* # 48

*Micah 5:2-4* p. 756

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

CAROL *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* # 308

**FIFTH LESSON** *Luke 1:26-38* p. 831

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

CAROL *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* # 16

Verse 1 – All; Verse 2 – Men; Verse 3 – Women; Verse 4 – All

**SIXTH LESSON** *Matthew 1:18-23* p. 783

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful* # 41

**SEVENTH LESSON** *Luke 2:8-16* p. 833

The shepherds go to the manger.

ANTHEM *Hurry, Shepherds, Run!* # 41

Chancel Choir

Still was the sky over Bethlehem; bright were the stars that lit the way.  
Distant the sound of angel voices telling the world that hope is born today.

Hurry, shepherds run to the manger, leave your sheep and come,  
Come with gentle kings and people all.

Hurry, hurry run, kneel, adore, open your hearts to him.

The world is born anew in humble stall.

Bathed in the glow of the soft moonlight, there on the golden straw he lay.

Close by his side we shall ever stay; tell all the world that love is born today.

Hurry, hurry, hurry run to the manger, Hurry, hurry, hurry run to the stall.

Hurry, hurry, hurry come to the manger, born is the Lord of all.

**MEDITATION** *Manger Danger*  
Pastor Larry De Vuyst

**EIGHTH LESSON** *Matthew 2:1-11* p. 783

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

ANTHEM *The First Noel* arr. Sherman

Bell Choir

**NINTH LESSON** *John 1:1-14* p. 862

John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

ANTHEM *Sweetly Sleep, Jesus Child* arr. Kinyon

Chancel Choir & Bells

The twilight is falling and on steals the night.

I come to Thee, Jesus, my heavenly light.

I sing by Thy cradle a sweet lullaby.

Thou art not yet sleeping, I hear Thy soft cry.

Lullaby, lullaby, sweetly sleep, dearest Child.

The darkness is round us, the day is now gone.

I come to adore Thee, the heavenly Son.

I come to Thy cradle and sing Thee a song;

I sing Thee to sleep in the winter night long.

Now close Thy sweet eyelids, Thy crying now cease;

And give me in parting Thy blessing of peace.

I go to my slumber and rest without care,

Because Thou art near me, my Savior so fair.

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

The Words of Institution

The Communion

(Please remain in your seats and the elements will be brought to you.  
You may partake of the elements when received.)

### SHARING CHRIST'S LIGHT

(The flame will be brought to the congregation and passed down the aisle.)

CAROL                      *Silent Night, Holy Night*                      # 60

PRAYER AND BLESSING

\* CLOSING CAROL                      *Joy to the World*                      # 40

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

\* POSTLUDE                      *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*                      Bach  
\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

Welcome to our members, friends and visitors. We are pleased that you are with us to worship and celebrate this night! Please pass the Friendship Pads found in the center aisle chair racks along your row to let us know that you are worshipping with us this evening.

No formal offering will be taken this evening. If you wish to leave a gift, collection plates are located by the door as you exit.

The Webster Presbyterian Church Family wishes you and your family a blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Webster Presbyterian Church  
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### Ministers

Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. De Vuyst  
Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

### Worship on Sunday, December 31

9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

### Regular Worship Hours, Resuming Sunday, January 7

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary