

COLLINGSWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.

*Christmas Eve - The Nativity of our Lord
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*



ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Silent Prayer

I come to you O God full of expectation of this night. I pray for your presence to fill my life and refresh my soul. May this night be a time of centering and preparation for your coming into my world. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

We welcome you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Please sign the guest book in the narthex so we can send you a welcome packet.

Choral Introit: "Joy to the World" by G.F. Handel

Chancel Choir

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: The Lord will give you a sign.

People: Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (God is with us)!

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Christ Candle is lit.

Hymn #2090, "Advent Song" (verse 5)

**Light the Christmas candles, now
Sing of donkey, sheep and cow;
Birthday candles for the king,
Let the alleluias ring.**

**Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright;
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

Call to Worship (responsively):

Leader: Tonight is a holy night: a night of stars and angels, a night of shepherds and sheep, and a family in a stable.

People: Tonight we celebrate in memory and hope the birth of a Savior, the Holy Child of Bethlehem.

Leader: Honor and majesty are before the Lord. Strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.

People: We worship the Lord in holy splendor. Glory to you, O Lord!

*Hymn of Praise: *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* #41 PH

***Prayer of Confession (unison)-**

Gather us around the manger, Lord Jesus;

Let us sing in awe of the miracle of your birth.

You were born in the shadow of a cross,

And you came to be our Savior.

Give us the eyes of a child to see all things new

And the wisdom of a sage to remember the promises of old.

Forgive us when we have forgotten you and trusted

In our own strength. We have become weary from carrying

These burdens of sin and sorrow.

Abide with us, O Lord, Emmanuel. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Leader: Know that God's promises are for you!

People: We only need to open our hearts and come clean to God.

Leader: Friends, believe and live out the good news

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

*Hymn Response *"Gloria"* (sing 2 times)

Gloria, gloria,

in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria,

alleluia, alleluia!

The Communion of the People

(Please hold the elements until all have been served)

The Bread:

Join the choir to sing Hymn #27 "*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*"

The Cup:

Join the choir to sing Hymn # 48 "*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*"

The Prayer after Communion (unison)-

All powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into the world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: "*Silent Night*" #60 PH

(The Congregation is invited to move to the walls to form a circle and light their candles- tipping the unlit candle)

**Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!**

Leader: The Light of Christ goes into all the world!

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Benediction

*Choral Response: *"Joy to the World"* (Join the choir in singing and share God's joy with the world!)

**Joy to the world! The Lord has come:
Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

*Postlude



**Those who are able, please stand.*



Go Forward and Serve!

Be a part of God's work through CPC!



(Please place candles in the boxes at the rear of the sanctuary as you leave.)

IS THERE ROOM?

by Dr. Susan M. (Elli) Elliott

Fragile God, born in the night -

We listen in the clarity of the cold night air.
We hear the hoofs clopping in the dust,
a man's soft voice reassuring a tired woman.
We hear his voice inquiring,
"Is there room?"
"Is there room for us?"

Fragile God, born in the night -

We know the story.
We know that you are coming.
"Is there room?"
"Is there room for you?"

Fragile God, born in the night -

We see the shadowy figures finding the stable.
"There is no room."
We see the man preparing a place in the hay.
He makes room.
We see the woman moving heavily,
The hours of labor, the sweat, the tears, the cries,
The moans, and crushing grip of the hands.
We hear the insistent cry of the child wail out, born at last!
"Make room!"
"Make room for me!"

Fragile God, born in the night -

We hear you cry.
We hear from the hills and the pastures,
your cry as a newborn child ringing out in the still air,
your cry echoed
in the thunderous announcement from the skies.
We see you in the manger.
We travel across the miles to see,
your glory as a newborn child lying in a manger,
your glory reflected in the star we follow.

Fragile God, born in the night -

We have room for you.

We are poor scruffy shepherds and elegant educated kings.

We are servers in restaurants and CEO's of giant corporations.

We are villagers hauling water for our families from distant wells.

We are neurosurgeons holding life in our well-trained hands.

We are survivors of immense disasters struggling to rebuild lost lives.



Christmas Poinsettias



Given with love by:

Mike and Sarah Amato in memory of Barney and Mary Rovi, Jeanette Talbot, and John Mascitis.

Ray and Catherine Burns in memory of Bill and Margaret Hearn and loved ones.

Circle I in memory of loved ones.

The Deacons in memory of Alex Fell.

Betty and Art Dickol in memory of our parents and Drew Dickol.

The Forgach Family in memory of Wattsy, Punky, and Bepop.

Marie and Bill Goulburn in memory of loved ones.

Muriel Haines in memory of loved ones.

Peggy and Keith Haines in memory of Peggy's parents, Peggy and Ray Beck.

The Herzog Family in memory of loved ones.

Tara Klemash and Amanda Miner in memory of Christine Klemash.

The LaPan Family in memory of Rodney's father, Marvin LaPan and Jill and Rodney's grandparents.

June Lattimore in honor of Hazel Steckclair.

Bob, Candace, Jessica & Kim Lowden in memory of loved ones.

Marjorie and Nolan Miller in memory of their parents,

Christmas Poinsettias



Given with love by:

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Moffett in memory of our parents and Art's brother, Lt. J.G. George L. Moffett.

The Moler family in memory of Bob and Bobby Moler.

Lois Noyes in memory of loved ones.

Pastors Kate and Gary and sons Will and Brett in memory of Patsy Brown DeChurch, Gay Killebrew, and Bill Salmon.

Pastor Kate Killebrew in honor of the Salmon family.

Ted Stubbins in memory of Elizabeth Dallesandro, by her nieces and nephews.

Sheralyn Tinsley in memory of Mr. T.J. and Mrs. M. Franklin; Mr. J.S. Tinsley and Mr. Alex Fell, and in honor of Mrs. E. Tinsley.

The Tumminia, Mazak and Ortiz Families in memory of Violet Tumminia.

Jean Waitz in memory of Bill Waitz.

Linda and Paul Young in memory of Paul Young and Cora Schmidt.

WE WELCOME YOU to this evening's service of worship!
*If you are seeking a church home, we'd be pleased to have you join us at
our 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service!*



Contact the church office or visit our website for more information.



COLLINGSWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Stacy Lagakos, Director of Music

Jennifer Giordano, Director of Christian Education