



**First Presbyterian Church of Boonville**

**Christmas Eve Worship Service**

Michael Yeoman, CRE, Pastor

Rodney Ventura, Organist and Choir Director

***Prelude***

*Greetings*

Choral Music “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” - Arr. Lloyd Larson Select Quartet

*Lighting of the Christ Candle The Weber Family*

*Tonight we light the four candles of Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.* The final candle is the ***Christ*** candle. It sits in the center of the other candles because hope, peace, joy and love all come from Jesus. The Book of Acts says: “For in him we live, and move, and have our being.” And the Gospel of John records that Jesus said: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”

*Prayer for the Lighting of the Christ Candle*”

O God, as light comes from this candle, May the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way. May Christ our Savior Bring life into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. Amen.

*Scripture Reading* [**Isaiah 11:1-9**](http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/isaiah/11/)

1A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD- 3and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. 6The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. 7The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. 9They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 **The Birth of Jesus Foretold** \

**26**In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27**to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. **28**And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201:26-38&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24914a)] **29**But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30**The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31**And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32**He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. **33**He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” **34**Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201:26-38&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24920b)] **35**The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201:26-38&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24921c)] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. **36**And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. **37**For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38**Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of Jesus **Thanks be to God**

Choral Music ***“***Coventry Carol” arr. Lloyd Larson
Duet – Heather Nunneker and Hayden Flinchum

Scripture Reading **Luke 2:1-7** “**[The](http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/luke/2/) Birth of Jesus “**

 **2**At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. **2**(This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3**All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. **4**And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. **5**He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

**6**And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. **7**She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

The Gospel of Jesus **Thanks be to God**

Choral Music “I Wonder as I Wander” arr. John Jacob Niles
Duet Hayden Flinchum and Dylan Youngs

Luke 2:8-16 ***“The Shepherds* Hear About Jesus”**

**8**And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9**And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10**And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12**And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” **13**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

**14**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2%3A8-16&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-24979a" \o "See footnote a)]

**15**When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16**And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

The Gospel of Jesus **Thanks be to God**

Choral Music “Angels We Have Heard On High”
Soloist Payton Cady

*Scripture Reading*  **The Magi Visit Jesus** Matthew 2:1-12

**2**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%202:1-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23171a)] from the east came to Jerusalem **2**and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**3**When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4**When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5**“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

**6**“‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%202:1-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23176b)]”

**7**Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8**He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

**9**After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10**When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11**On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12**And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of Jesus **Thanks be to God**

Choral Music “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” arr Longfellow/Calkin Select Quartet

Christmas Message Pastor Mike Yeoman

*Christmas Prayer:*

*Lighting of the Candles*

**In the excitement of this night, let us now take a moment to quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. As your candle is lit, may God shine light in the darkness of our world.**

Silent Night

\*Joy to the World

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Thank you to the following individuals who helped to make this Christmas Eve Service special:

Readers:

The Weber Family – Will, Jenn, Drew and Claire

Diane Hausserman

Organist & Choir Director – Rodney Ventura

Singers: Heather Nunneker
               Sue LeClar
               Hayden Flinchum
               Dylan Youngs
               Payton Cady