



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2011

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1400 Highland Pike, Covington, Kentucky, 41011

(859) 331-3238

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 24, 2011

4:00PM

THE PRELUDE

+THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 52:7

L- How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

+HYMN OF PRAISE 27 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

L- Tonight is about hope; hope in the unseen and often unsought, hope in the God who seeks and finds us-- who calls us

The First Candle

L- Tonight is about love-- given to us to proclaim, to spread, to share, to do.

The Second Candle

L- Tonight is about joy, the shock of receiving: of discovering hidden treasure, a super valuable pearl in a cache of ordinary pearls.

The Third Candle

L- Tonight is about the peace we gather, peace that is found in the frequently assailed but unvanquished stronghold of our faith: a house not made by hands eternal in the heavens.

The Fourth Candle

M-Tonight is about Jesus of Nazareth whom we confess to be the Christ of God who comes to save us from our sins.

The Christ Candle

CAROL MEDLEY It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (38) vs. 1
Silent Night (60) vs. 1, 3

SOLO

Anji Hurt

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

THE SERVICE OF GIVING

The Prayer of Dedication

THE OFFERING

Our offering this evening is part of our church's Christmas Joy Gift to be used by our denomination in support of retired servants of the church and racial ethnic institutions

SOLO

Floyd Hastings

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ALL- Grant O God a growing understanding of all that is you. Grant to us some sign within that understanding that we are beginning again to understand and to grow with it. Grant us—in the understanding—courage born of love, love born of faith, faith born of hope—a true Christmas. Amen

A LESSON FROM THE PROPHET Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

THE SERMON The Nature of Incarnation

Rev. Don Smith

CAROL MEDLEY

O Little Town of Bethlehem (44) vs. 1, 3
Away in a Manger (25)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

OUR INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

AND

M- Eternal God, long before time was measured, your Word brought light into being and being into light. In Jesus Christ, you grant us your saving Word, and in Holy Spirit that Word continues to challenge and comfort as we live along the way on our journey toward you. Despite our desire to wander, you stand by us with the love of mother and father correcting our course, accepting our repentance,

and welcoming us always and again into your embrace.

P- We praise you Lord, joining our voices to choirs of angels and to the faithful of all times and places who forever sing the glory of your name.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION OF BREAD AND CUP

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

UNISON PRAYER

God of the starry night, of dancing angels, of shepherds' fields, of "No Vacancy" signs, and the added discomfort to giving birth in a stable, what have we done to deserve this? Lord of our lives, you planted the seed that grew into the tree that became the promise of our salvation. We have found comfort, purpose and, meaning in our lives through our growing understanding of your old, old story. We want to say thank you, but you have called us to transform mere words into the action that they demand. Help us proclaim your ways in both in word and in deed—so that one day all will know the joy and hope we find in you: in the radical gift of your presence and the incredible gift of your promise.

THE CANDLE LIGHTING *As the candles are lit at the end of each pew please share your light with the one next to you.*

+HYMN 31 Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

THE CHARGE *Matthew 5:14-16*

THE BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

THE POSTLUDE

+ All who are able will please stand