



December 21, 2021, 7:30 pm
Potomac Presbyterian Church

10301 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-6007

www.potomacpresbyterian.org

Prayer of Preparation: Give us a voice, your own voice, to cry out to you for mercy for the world. You, light, give us light. You, wisdom, give us wisdom. You, supreme strength, strengthen us. Amen Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)

GATHERING

Prelude

Gesu, Bambino

Pietro Yon

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Bob Stow, Karen Karch, and Sherry Johnson

Leader: We light the candle of Hope as we await the coming of Jesus, who is our source of hope.

All: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of hope, in our times of emptiness.

(Candle of Hope is lit)

Leader: We light the candle of Peace, knowing that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

All: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of peace in our times of uncertainty.

(Candle of Peace is lit)

Leader: We light the candle of Joy, knowing that our comfort and help come from God.

All: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of joy in our times of sadness.

(Candle of Joy is lit)

Leader: We light the candle of Love, knowing that God is love revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

All: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of love in our times of loneliness.

(Candle of Love is lit)

Hymn 144

In the Bleak Midwinter
Washington Opera Society Singers

CRANHAM

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

O God of love and forgiveness, your light shines in the darkness. This we know, it is a truth that we believe and one on which we hang our hope. Yet the dark is so deep, it threatens to undo us. Our pain of loss is real. Our memories, while precious, seem to bring more pain. As we hear your word, sing the hymns of the church, and receive the sacrament, we pray that you would grant us strength to face the darkness, the difficulty, and the sadness. We pray that we may claim the light and love of Jesus Christ. Grant us courage in this hour, and peace in this season. Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Scripture

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Silent Reflection

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-3

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.

Silent Reflection

Scripture

Matthew 11: 28-30

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Silent Reflection

Sermon

“Light a Candle”

Chris McAuliffe, M.Div.

Response

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Quartet

ES IST EIN' ROS'

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion Liturgy Continues...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

You may have your bread and juice with you, pre-prepared, and may serve others nearby and serve yourself saying, "the bread of life" for the bread, and "the cup of salvation" for the cup. For those seated in the pews, you may remove your mask to take the elements.

Music for Meditation

Prayers after Communion: (Stephen Minister Leaders)

God of compassion, you have given us your own Son, Jesus Christ, to be for us the great physician, making the broken whole and overcoming even the darkness of death and despair with new life and hope. We thank you for the one who touched the untouchable, reached out to the dying, and brought healing and wholeness to those who had despaired of mending. Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts, and restore us to wholeness of life, through this same Lord Jesus Christ.

Set our troubled souls free, O Lord, from restlessness and anxiety. Uphold us by your strength. Anchor us upon the rock of your faithfulness. Give us your peace and power and so keep us that in all times of trouble and distress, we may know you hold us close. Indeed, you are faithful, O God. You not only give us your word that can be trusted but you also lend us your ear for our comfort.

Grant us, O God, the fullness of your promises. Where we have been weak, grant us your strength; where we have been confused, grant us your guidance; where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort; and in all times and circumstances grant us your peace. God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these your people. Grant to all, especially the bereaved and troubled ones this Christmas, the blessing we ask in the name of Christ. Amen.

SENDING

Invitation to Light a Candle

All who wish, may come forward to light a candle on the communion table in memory of someone, in prayer, or as a sign of hope. We invite anyone watching at home to do the same

with candles that you have. During the lighting, all are invited to sing or hum along as we meditate on the words of Hear My Prayer O God.

Hymn 782 Sung Live

Hear My Prayer O God

HYMN CHANT

Sharing the Light of Christ

As we pass the light from the Advent wreath now, remember the words of the prophet Isaiah, “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.” Trusting, in these words, let us bask in the light of Christ as we sing our sending hymn, Silent Night.

Hymn 122 Sung Live

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

♪ **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.**

Benediction

Postlude

Greensleeves

arr. Richard Purvis

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Berman D’Andrea
Beatrice Laryea, Seminarian
Chris McAuliffe, M. Div.
Karen Karch, Bob Stow, Sherry Johnson,
Stephen Ministry Leaders

Quartet Musicians

Mrs. Judy Andrew, Alto
Mr. Tom Andrew, Bass
Mr. Greg Robertson, Tenor
Mrs. Jennifer Robertson, Soprano