





**The Setauket Presbyterian Church**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

December 24, 2021

7:30PM

❖ *please rise in body or in spirit; unison prayers are in bold.*

**GATHERING MUSIC** "Sinfonia" from *Messiah*

Georg Friederich Händel (1685-1759)

**RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL**

**WELCOME**

**INTROIT**

*Festive Trumpet Tune*

David German

**The Light Enters**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Isaiah 9:2-7

❖ **HYMN** no. 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (verses 1 & 3)

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Alfreda James and Chris Dere

**SUNG RESPONSE**

"Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened...He shall feed his flock" from *Messiah*

G.F. Händel

Elizabeth Mirandi, soprano

**PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION**

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us. We confess that we have not welcomed you, or trusted your good news to be good. We have refused Christ's peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may watch and wait once more to hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.**

*(time for silent prayer)* Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!**

**SUNG RESPONSE**

"Behold, I tell you a mystery...The trumpet shall sound" from *Messiah*

G.F. Händel

Liam Butchart, bass-baritone

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit, teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words and ponder them in our hearts, through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 2:1-7

**HYMN no.145** (seated) *What Child Is This?* (verse 1)

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 2:8-14

**ANTHEM** "Rejoice Greatly" from *Messiah* G.F. Händel  
Elizabeth Mirandi, soprano

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 2:15-20

**ANTHEM** "Thus Saith the Lord & But Who May Abide" from *Messiah*  
Liam Butchart, bass-baritone G.F. Händel

**MEDITATION** Rev. Kate Jones Calone

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERING**

*Tonight, in addition to our regular offering, we invite you to contribute to the Christmas Joy Offering, which supports leadership development for communities of color and provides support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. You may leave your offering in the plates outside the sanctuary as you depart.*

**FESTIVAL OF LIGHT**

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

*The Christ candle represents Jesus, the Light of the world. The candle lighting ceremony is symbolic of the spreading of the Gospel Light from one life to another. The lighted candle is never tilted, but held upright when giving light to another. Please extinguish your candles after the last stanza of Silent Night by placing an empty communion cup over the wick and smothering the flame.*

❖ **HYMN no.122** *Silent Night*

**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! Wondrous start, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

❖ **CHRISTMAS PRAYER** (unison)

Living God, on this holy night we stand with shepherds,  
amazed at your glory;  
we sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;  
we wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;  
we sit with Mary, cradling your love.  
May the good news of this night inspire us  
to tell the world of our great joy:  
for unto us is born a Savior,  
the Messiah, the Lord.  
Glory and Praise to you forever! Amen.

❖ **HYMN no.134** *Joy to the World!* (verses 1 & 4)

❖ **BENEDICTION**

May we who have knelt  
at the manger  
always have room  
to hold within ourselves the Christmas Child.

May we who have gazed on the face of God  
learn to live fully,  
and to share freely  
all that we have and are.

So may Emmanuel--God with us and for us--  
be once again incarnated in the world.

The blessing of the Holy One--God, Spirit, Savior--  
be with you tonight and always.

Hallelujah! Amen.

**CHORAL RESPONSE** *Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah*

G.F. Händel

Elizabeth Mirandi, soprano; Barbara Fusco-Spera, mezzo-soprano; Greg Senf, tenor;  
Liam Butchart, bass-baritone

**POSTLUDE**

*Please extinguish your candle and put it the receptacles provided as you leave.*

We welcome **Cynthia Porter** as our Worship Assistant this evening.

Thanks to Cynthia for this service!

We thank Alexandra Calabro, violin 1; Laura Mole, violin 2; Boris Deviatov, viola; Dustin Bartley, cello, and Richard Wiederman, trumpet, for their service this evening

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*You will always be welcome here. This is God's house and a happy church home.*

*Let us be your church family, for we are all beloved children of God.*

*Join us regularly for Christian worship, nurture, and the doing of God's work in the world—  
and all shall be well; all manner of thing shall be well.*