



*Mary treasured all these words and pondered
them in her heart. - Luke 2:19*



The Setauket Presbyterian Church
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION

December 24, 2022

11:00 PM

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

GATHERING MUSIC

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

WELCOME

INTROIT

The Light Enters

O Come, All Ye Faithful

SPC Bell Choir

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

❖ **HYMN no. 133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

CALL TO WORSHIP

An unmarried teenage girl was invited —
to carry Christ into this world.

An ordinary carpenter was invited —
to be a father to a child unlike any other.

The shepherds were invited —
outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

The Magi were invited —
foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were
invited —

then we can trust that we too are invited.

This story is for us.

This love is for us.

Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. However, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth for ourselves and others. Forgive us for ignoring your invitation to be the people you call us to be. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears not only to hear your invitation, but also to trust that the good news of the Christ child exists even for us. Gratefully we pray... *(time for silent confession)*.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

On this night of the year, a voice is speaking – can we hear it? It is saying,

'I know the cares and thoughts of your hearts.

I know the hard time you often give yourselves.

I know the hopes and ambitions that you have for yourselves and for others.

I know your doubts, too.

On this night, I want to find a way of saying to you:

You are deeply, deeply loved, just as you are,

forgiven, loved and challenged to be

the very best you can be.

So I'm speaking to you in the only way I know how –
from a stable, in a child born into poverty,
soon to grow to maturity, born to show you,
in a human life, the love of God.'

We are grateful. Thanks be to God!

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Angels We Have Heard On High
SPC Bell Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,

we've heard this story many times—

Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds.

We've heard it many times,

but we want to hear it like it's the first.

So move among us. Circle back. Draw close.

Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness.

**Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to us
with curiosity, joy, and hope.**

This is an invitation. Come be here with us.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

ANTHEM

Away In A Manger
SPC Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

MEDITATION

Rev. Ashley McFaul-Erwin

❖ **HYMN no. 119** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

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.

❖ DOXOLOGY

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One who became flesh, wherever there is heartbreak, wherever there is devastation, wherever there is loss, you are near. One who became flesh, wherever there is joy, wherever there is love, wherever there is life, you are near. On this holy night, bring your abiding presence close to all throughout our community. Bless our offerings to the work of your incarnational ministry of love and justice. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, with Intercessions, and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Sharing the Bread and Cup (Please hold the elements until all are served.)

Prayer after Communion

We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.

We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.

**We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world.
We now go to live out this joy, hope, and love we have found! Amen.**

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

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 always 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.

❖ CANDLELIGHT CAROL 122 *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! 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.**

❖ RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

May the news of the angels
fill our lives and hearts with great joy.
**May the star that guided the wise
lead us to the truth of understanding.**

May the witness of the shepherds
affirm in us the message of the Gospel.

**May the sound of the incarnate Word
bring us peace and hope.**

May the presence of the sacred baby
remind us of our own holiness.

**And may this Christmas
gift us, bless us, comfort us, and challenge us
as we journey into another year.**

POSTLUDE

We Wish You A Merry Christmas
SPC Bell Choir

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

Thank you to our Worship Assistant for their service this evening.

Thanks to Ken, Arlene and Christian Rogers for lighting the Advent wreath!

Cover artwork is from *A Sanctified Art*, www.sanctifiedart.org, “How God Shows Up” by
Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity.

Thank you to the SPC Bell Choir for their performance tonight! Arlene Rogers, Lynn
Campbell, Alice Dawes, Debbie Lauri, Gretchen Smith, Dick Holroyd & Joan
Kahnhauser

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.*

THE STAFF

Rev. Dr. Johanna McCune Wagner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Ashley McFaul-Erwin, Community Outreach Pastor

Noby Ishida, Director of Music

Heidi Parles, Director of Spiritual Formation

Aaron Watkins-Lopez, Church Administrator and Assistant to the Pastor

Elizabeth Smith, Communications Coordinator

Heather Klein, Preschool Teacher/Co-Director

Yvonne Sterrett, Preschool Teacher/Co-Director

Richard A. Holroyd, Church Treasurer

Jean Hrbek, Financial Secretary

Eva Stanganelli, Outreach Operations Manager



From all of us at SPC we
wish you a Merry Christmas



The Setauket Presbyterian Church

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Setauket Presbyterian Church is a member congregation the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and thereby of the Presbytery of Long Island.