



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

First Presbyterian Church

70 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564
585-924-2289
www.victorpres.org

Pastor: Rev. Michael McNamara

Organist: Ayn Patrowicz

AV: Bill Martz

Thank you to these members who are helping with worship this eve-

Readers: Dean Cornwell, Larry Teel, Rebecca Martz, Allison Martz, Kelly Fisher, John Toomey, & Sue Delmonico

Order of Worship *Christmas Eve*

Saturday, December 24, 2023, 7pm

**Please stand if you are able.*

Prelude “O Come, All Ye Faithful”, arr. by David Willcocks

Welcome

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath** *Rev. Michael McNamara*
We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**Advent means coming.
We are preparing for the full coming of God’s kingdom:**

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

‘The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.’

‘The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.’

**‘The Lord will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.’**

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.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

***Opening Hymn No. 49 (v.1-2)** “Once in Royal David’s City”

Gathering Prayer

Service of Lessons and Carols

Lesson No.1, read by Dean Cornwell

Genesis 3:8-15,17-19

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."
And to the man he said,
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

*Hymn No. 44 (v.1-2)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Lesson No.2, read by Larry Teel

Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

*Hymn GTG No. 88 (v.1-4) "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (Insert)

Lesson No. 3, read by Allison Martz

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Hymn No. 38

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Lesson No. 4, read by Kathie Jacobs

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Peaceful Kingdom

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. (cont.)

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

*Hymn *GTG No. 137*

“He Came Down” (Insert)

Lesson No. 5, read by Rebecca Martz

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 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 will be holy; he will be called Son of God.” (cont.)

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.

*Hymn *No. 31*

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Lesson No. 6, read by Kelly Fisher

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*Hymn *No. 25*

“Away in a Manger”

Special Choir Music

“O Holy Night”, arr. By John Leavitt

Sue Delmonico

Dave Delmonico

Steve Song

Dean Cornwell

Amy Reinhardt

Cathy Martz

Sue Toomey

Rebecca Martz

Kathie Jacobs

Steve Simpson

Rev. Michael McNamara

Lesson No. 7, read by John Toomey

Luke 2:8-16

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” (cont.)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

***Hymn No. 23** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Lesson No. 8, read by Sue Delmonico

Matthew 2:1-11 **The Visit of the Wise Men**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

***Hymn No. 66** (v.1) “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

**Offering
Special Music**

“Love Has Come”, arr. by Al Roberts
Avery Newstead, violinist

***Doxology**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer

Lesson No. 9, read by Rev. Michael McNamara

John 1:1-14

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

***Hymn No. 60** “Silent Night, Holy Night” (candlelit)

***Sending Hymn No. 40** “Joy to the World!”

***Benediction**

The joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the Magi, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Postlude “For Unto Us a Child is Born with Joy to the World”
arr. by Keith Christopher



Poinsettias adorn our sanctuary this Christmas Eve.
We would like to acknowledge those who donated
and those to whom they are dedicated.

Sponsor:

Lewis & Phyllis Stewart

In Memory Of:

Robert L. Stewart

John & Sue Toomey

*Wesley & Evelyn Kujawski
John "Bill" & Lillian Toomey
Betty Toomey*

Barb & Rich Cromwell

Brian Glassmacher

Beverly Frost

Nick Nelson & Tara Holter

*Jack & Joyce Holter
Dick & Carol Greenaway
Our Schue & Holter Grandparents*

Nancy Olson

*Robert (Steve) Olson
M/M Adrian Lane*

**Bill, Stacey, & Lindsay
Lauretti**

*Raymond & Florence Erickson,
Deborah Erickson, RayAnn Gaskins
William & Virginia Lauretti*

Nancy Krueger

Bob & Ruth Dreste

The Martz Family

*Lewis & Phyllis Martz
Lewis J. Martz
Carol J. Ellison*

The Quatrano Family

Franklin & Evelyn Graff

Jeanne Phillips

Charles & Marie Phillips



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Sponsor:

Muriel Nado

All of those passed on

Marjorie Damaske

Ed Damaske

Jerry & Munda Colyer

Jennifer Worrall

*Larry Lyons
Dale Worrall*

Jane Brame

*Julie Cook
Buzz Mumford
Linell Short*

Janette Mumford

My son Neil "Buzz" Mumford

Geoffrey & Jan Astles

*Russ Purdie
Carol Fowler*

Shirley Roets

*Ardean L. Roets
David A. Roets*

Sponsor:

Larry Jacobs

In Honor Of:

Kathleen Jacobs

Barb & Rich Cromwell

Kailyn Glassmacher

Liz Seaver

Our neighbors on Saurer Farms Drive

He Came Down 137

He came down that we may have love; he
came down that we may have love; he came down that we may
have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have light
... that we may have peace
... that we may have joy

TEXT: Cameroon song
MUSIC: Cameroon melody; transcr. and arr. John L. Bell, 1986
Music Arr. © 1986 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

HE CAME DOWN
LM

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Em-man - u - el, and ran-som
O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, who or-derest
O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from
cap-tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile
all things might - i - ly; to us the path of knowl-edge
tribes on Si - nai's height in an-cient times didst give the
Sa-tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo-ple
here un-til the Son of God ap-pear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
law in cloud and maj-es-ty and awe.
save and give them vic-tory o'er the grave.

Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with refrain