Christmas Eve 2019 at Christ Church

Our cover art, “Trumpeter” was created by local North Canton artist Tina Meyers and we thank her for letting us use it. You can check out more of her work on Facebook @eyesplinterart.

Christ Presbyterian Church
530 West Tuscarawas Street, Canton, OH

Choral & Organ Prelude Music at 9:30 p.m.
Service of Holy Communion at 10:00 p.m.

(Broadcast live at 9:30pm on WHLO-640 AM; please silence all electronic devices)
Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 2019

Please silence all electronic & communication devices.

* At these moments, we invite you to stand in body or spirit.

Large print copies of the hymns are available in the narthex or from an usher.

Choral Prelude (beginning at 9:30pm; please see separate insert with texts of these carols)

What Songs Were Sung (Sarah Pozderac-Chenevey, mezzo soprano) John Jacob Niles
Nativity Carol John Rutter
The Lamb John Tavener
Christ the Apple Tree Stanford Scriven
Whence is That Goodly Fragrance Harrison Oxley
Up! Good Christen Folk, and Listen *Piae Cantiones; arr., J. William Greene
The Virgin Slumber Song (Jean Burnquist, soprano) Max Reger

Call to Worship

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
People: those who lived in the land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light the Christ Candle symbolizing the peace established in all of creation upon the Advent of Jesus of Nazareth.

*Hymn in Procession No. 133

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
   O come; O come ye to Bethlehem!
   Come, and behold him, born the the King of angels!
   O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
   O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

2. True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
   Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
   very God, begotten, not created!
   O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
   O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
   Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
   Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
   O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
   O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
   Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
   Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
   O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
   O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

*Prayer of Adoration
Leader: Good and gracious God, long ago on this holy night, in the region of Judea, in the city of Bethlehem you gave us your Son.

People: The Lord of the universe came among us wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Leader: On this night, in the region of Stark, in the city of Canton, draw us into the mystery of your love.

People: Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)
Great God,
tell us again of the Savior's birth, so long ago, in the city of Bethlehem.
Tell us again that life can be abundant in faith and hope and love, not because of who we are, but because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Kyrie from Missa Brevis St. Joannis de Deo
Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)

Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon
Leader: “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

People: This night all creation sings a new song. All is made new. Christ is born. All is well.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Unison: Praise be to God, who sends the Son. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Response to the Assurance of Pardon from Missa Brevis St. Joannis de Deo
Haydn

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Glory to God in the highest.
Et in terra pax And on earth peace
hominibus bonae voluntatis. to all those of good will.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. We praise thee. We bless thee.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te. We worship thee. We glorify thee.
Gratias agimus tibi We give thanks to thee
propter magnam gloriam tuam. According to thy great glory.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Lord God, Heavenly King,
Deus Pater omnipotens. God the Father almighty.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe. Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Lord God, Lamb of God,
Filius Patris. Son of the Father.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, Thou who takest away the sins of the world,
miserere nobis. have mercy upon us.
The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Reading  
_A Good and Righteous Life_  
Titus 2:11-14  
Leader:  The Word of the Lord.  
People:  Thanks be to God.  

Pew Bible page 969  
Large Print Pew Bible page 262

Carol  
French Carol; arr. Carolyn Jennings

1. Ding Dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing,  
Ding Dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

2. E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,  
And “i-o, i-o, i-o,” by priest and people sungen.  
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

3. Pray you dutifully prime your Matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime your Evetime Song, ye singers.  
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Gospel Reading  
_The Child is Born_  
Luke 2:1-20  
People:  Thanks be to God.  

Pew Bible pages 832-833  
Large Print Pew Bible page 71

*Hymn No. 119  
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Sermon  
_“Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you...”_  
Rev. David L. de Vries

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.
Our Response to The Word

*Affirmation of Faith (unison) Excerpt from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (unison)

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.

At the Offertory

Anthem “Sing, Angels, Kings, and Folk” Ben Allaway

What did the angels see when they looked down upon this ordinary town?  
What could a humble village have in store, with heav’nly legions winging o’er?  
What did the star reveal in the night? A woman in her plight,  
A husband searching for an open door.

What did the oxen hear that bade them low? It wasn’t time to plough or tow.  
Who were these strangers huddling from the cold, a mother young, the father old?  
What simple comfort could they hope to find to ease her in her time,  
A manger’s warmth, a sleeping lamb to hold.

What glorious voices woke the shepherds then in joys cascading ‘cross the heav’n?  
What message brought them running to the town to join the welcome gath’ring ‘round?  
“Sing alleluia to this King newborn to save the meek and worn,  
Both lamb and shepherd to the lost, the found.

How the angels still take up the song across the world wide and long.  
The star-anointed path is bright ahead for those who seek the manger bed.  
Sing, angels, kings, folk from town and hill your alleluias still,  
Believe and let the spirit song be fed.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
*Presentation (standing)  
Hymn No. 145 (stanza 3 — sung by all)  
Greensleeves  
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
*This, This is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
*Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!  

The Eucharist  

**Reflections & Instructions on Communion**  

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**Procedures for Receiving Communion**  
A gluten-free station (an Elder and Acolyte) is available to you on the pulpit side of the sanctuary.  

**Reflections on Communion**  
At Christ Presbyterian Church everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is encouraged and welcomed to the table. You need not be a member of the congregation.  

Communion is a time for quiet celebration. Please refrain from talking with neighbors as a way of honoring the silence needed for prayer.  

Moving forward, you are welcome to remember and celebrate your baptism into God’s Kingdom by dipping your fingers in the baptismal font.  

Receive the bread when offered, then dip the bread into the chalice. Appropriate responses to receiving bread and cup include:  
“Thanks be to God” “Amen” “Glory be to God”  

You are also welcome to receive Communion as a couple, family, and/or as friends gathered.  

As you return to your seat, you are encouraged to continue meditative singing (as directed by the choir), devote yourself to prayer, or meditate on the cross.  

(Remaining Standing)  
*Invitation to the Lord’s Table*  

*The Great Thanksgiving*  
**Leader:** The Lord be with you.  
**People:** And also with you.  
**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.  
**People:** We lift them to the Lord.  
**Leader:** Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.  
**Leader:** It is right, Creator and Ruler of the Universe, to give you thanks and praise. Beginning with Abraham, you formed a people as your own and made covenant to be their God.  
**People:** When we were slaves in Egypt, you heard our cries, sending Moses to lead us into freedom.  
**Leader:** You parted the waters of the sea, leading Israel safely through on dry ground.  
**People:** Though you gave us the promised land and made of us a great nation, we continued to turn from your ways and betray your commands.  
**Leader:** Yet, in love and enduring mercy, you continued to call us back to you through the words of the prophets. We now call out to you, forever praising your steadfast love and glory:
Sanctus from Missa Brevis St. Joannis de Deo Haydn
Pleni sunt coeli et terra Gloria tua, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in excelsis. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: You are holy, O God of glory, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lived among us, teaching and healing, gathering the outcast and the sinner, welcoming everyone into the way of abundant life.

People: By serving, he taught us how to serve. By loving us fully, he gave the example of how we are to love one another. Even on the night of his handed over, he loved his own to the end.

Leader: We remember that on the night he was betrayed, having gathered his friends at the table, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to this disciples, saying: “Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

And again, after supper, he took the cup and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.” Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this cup, gifts from the earth, and celebrate with thanksgiving the saving love of Jesus Christ. Accept, we pray, this offering of thanksgiving, as we proclaim the one crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

People: By your Spirit, bind us in love to the church of every time and place.

Leader: Loving one another, may we bear witness that we are disciples of Christ and serve others as he served us. With our whole bodies—head, hands, feet—we give ourselves in humility and gratitude as we await the day when we will share this feast at your table in glory.

People: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Carols (sung by the choir)

“In the Bleak Mid-winter” Harold Darke
Please see Hymn No. 144 for the text of this Christina Rossetti poem.

“Here is the Little Door” Owain Park

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, of lift!
We need not wander more but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold, Gold that was never bought nor sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his Bed; Incense in clouds about his head;
All for the Child that stirs not in his sleep, But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about his Bed: for each he has a gift;
See how his eyes awake, life up your hands, oh lift!
For gold, he gives a keen-edged sword (Defend with it Thy little Lord!) 
For incense, smoke of battle red, Myrrh for the honored happy dead;
Gifts for the children, terrible and sweet, Touched by such tiny hands and oh such tiny feet.

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving
Sending
(Ushers light candles)

Hymn No. 124 (Sung by choir) "Still, Still, Still"

*Hymn No. 122
Franz Gruber; desc., Gerre Hancock

1. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.”

3. 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.

*Christmas Eve Prayer (unison)
Great God, as you came at night when all was still,
so enter our lives this night.
Illumine our paths with the light of Christ’s presence,
that we may clearly see the way before us, the truth to speak
and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn in Procession No. 134 "Joy to the World"
(Please extinguish candles)

*Benediction

Please wait for the conclusion of the organ music before removing poinsettias.

*Organ Voluntary "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!" David Willcocks

The Christmas Poinsettias that adorn our Church Chancel are given in honor and glory of the birth of Christ.

The Cathedral Hour this Christmas Eve is given in joy and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior, Come Let Us Adore Him!

Liturgist: Terri Bate

A blessed and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year to all and to your loved ones.
Candle Safety

In the interest of fire safety, we are asking Christmas Eve participants to observe the following precautions:

1. Drip guards provided must stay on each candle.
2. Candles must be disposed of in the containers provided at each exit.

The use of candles is a very meaningful part of our Christmas Eve Service. Your cooperation in making it safe will help us continue this tradition. The light will be passed to the congregation by the ushers during the Candle Lighting ceremony. To prevent dripping of melted wax, unlighted candles should be tipped into the lighted candle to accept the flame. Please keep ALL lit candles in an upright position, trying not to tip them. When extinguishing the flame, please cup your hand to the side of the flame and light blow out the candle.

From Pastor Dave

In this very busy time of year, some people manage to find even more time to dedicate to the ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church. The Worship Ministry and the Food, Clothing, & Prayer Ministry are called to special effort in this season. The choir and the music staff dedicate hours of practice time to perfect our worship and praise. The Deacons Board reaches out in additional ways to meet needs of our homebound. The CPC office staff and custodians manage a work load increase that would frustrate the best at their craft, and they do it with grace and excellence. Even the children go all out to present to everyone “good news of great joy for all the peoples . . .”.

To everyone who has worked to make this Advent/Christmas season so extraordinarily special . . . thank you. You are living examples of Christ at work in our midst. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Sunday, December 29, we will be taking down the Christmas decorations. We need several people to help take down the trees, wreaths, garland, and bows. This will take place after the 10:30 worship service. The more helpers we have, the faster the task is completed. A simple meal will be provided. Please sign up in Cloister Hall

FCP Ministry + PB & J + You = EPIPHANY!

. . and the equation also equals happy clients at Christ Presbyterian Church’s twice-monthly food and clothing distributions! On Sunday, Jan. 5, we will be celebrating Epiphany. As we remember and celebrate the Gifts of the Magi, The Food, Clothing and Prayer Ministry is again looking forward to your generous “gifts” of 18-ounce jars of Peanut Butter & Jelly. These donations will be collected Jan. 6 but they can also be brought to the Church any time. Thank you for your generous support of this ministry throughout the year with your donations of time, clothing items, food items, and money. We are definitely here to serve those in need in downtown Canton!

With much gratitude ~ The Food, Clothing & Prayer Ministry Team
EPHANY MADRIGAL FEAST

Saturday, January 4, 2020
in Westminster Hall

Doors open at five o’clock
The Feast begins at half past five

featuring
Firestone High School Madrigal Singers

Tickets are $25 for Adults; $10 for Children
Tickets available online and in the Church office.

Proceeds from this event benefit the Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry of Christ Church.
Seating is limited to 120 guests.

Helpers needed for Madrigal Dinner
It takes a lot of hands to make all the revelry and pageantry happen! We are in need of a few extra hands to help supplement our hard working Deacons to help with set up on Friday, January 3rd and at the event on Saturday, January 4th. It’s also a great way to enjoy the event at no cost; plus I firmly believe that the "peasants table" for the helpers has the best seats in the house! There is a sign up sheet on the kiosk that details where we need help and you are welcome to contact Jennie George at the office for more information. Thanks for supporting this great night that benefits our Food, Clothing, and Prayer Ministry.

Lunch Bunch—A new opportunity to fellowship
and break bread
When: Every Sunday following 10:30am worship service
Where: La Pizzaria
(3656 Dressler Rd. NW, Canton, OH 44718)
Who: Everyone and anyone!

Lunch bunch is an informal gathering of church members, visitors, and friends at La Pizzaria at approximately 12:00 PM every Sunday. It is a great way to meet other people and get to know new friends. If you would like to attend, but need transportation or have any questions, please call Carolyn Hess at 330-353-0909.
**Sunday Morning Adult Classes  9:15-10:15 a.m.**

**Coffee & Conversations Class** meets in the Pine Room.

**The Intergenerational Class** meets in the Upper Room. Every week is a unique discussion. Together we will seek to know God's will and wisdom. Please speak with Mike Ophardt if you have any questions about this class.

**The Parlor Class** continues to study from the Present Word. 12/29—David's Prayer, led by Les Morgan.

There will be NO Westminster Class on Sundays, Dec. 29 or Jan. 5.

**2020 Offering Envelopes**
If you requested envelopes, you will find them in alphabetical order on the table in Cloister Hall. If you do not find envelopes with your name, and would like to receive them, please call the church office or print your name on the pad found on the table. If you are not able to pick up your envelopes, please call the church office, and we will gladly mail them out to you.

**2019 Charitable Contribution Deduction**
Please remember that all cash donations and/or stock transfers must be delivered to the Church Financial Office by **December 31, 2019**, in order to claim them as a charitable contribution deduction on your 2019 tax returns. Checks placed in the Church offering on the first Sunday in 2020 **will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2019**, even if the check is predated to 2019 or was actually written in 2019.

When contributing stock, please send a letter of direction and intent to Merrill Lynch and also a copy to myself in the church office. Thank you—Donald Weltlich

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**Holiday Office/Building Hours**
In observance of the Christmas and New Year Holiday, the Church office and Building Hours will be as follows:

Tuesday, December 24—Office Closed All Day
Building Open for Evening Services
Wednesday, December 25—Office/Building Closed All Day
Tuesday, December 31—Office/Building Closed All Day
Wednesday, January 1—Office/Building Closed All Day
Christ Presbyterian Church
exists to glorify God,
lead people to a
saving relationship with
Jesus Christ,
build one another up in
spiritual maturity,
and send out servants
to share the Good News
in word and deed.

Christ Presbyterian Church Staff
Ministers: The People of Christ Church
Senior Pastor: Rev. David de Vries
Associate Pastor: Rev. Michael Wallace
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Eldon Trubee
Interim Organist: Heather Cooper
Interim Director of Music: Britt Cooper
Director of Children’s and Family Ministries: Jennifer George
Pastor and Director of Camp Wakonda: Rev. Benjamin George
Business Administrator/Assistant Treasurer: Donald Weltlich
Financial Assistant/Secretary: Diane Nave
Administrative Assistant to the Senior Pastor/Secretary: Caryn Smith
Custodians: Kurt A. Gottschick & Ron Pelger
Sound Technician: Brian Ohler
Mission Co-Worker in Thailand: Esther Wakeman

Elders of
Christ Presbyterian Church
Kevin Anderson
Shawn Campbell
Nancy Irving
Jerry Norton
Michael Ophardt
Carol Orin
Bert Smith
Lori Sproul
Byrdie Stocker