

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

L: This is the word of the Lord;

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Christmas"

Rev. Frank Wyche

***RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND PRAISE**

L: Glory to you, O God, for the gift of yourself at Christmas!

P: Glory to you, our Father in heaven, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life.

L: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might be your people.

P: Glory to you, Lamb of God, for your self-sacrifice on the cross for forgiveness of our sins, and for your victory over death, to give us eternal life.

L: Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you guide and direct our lives, giving and deepening our faith.

P: Glory to you, almighty God – to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit – now and forever. Amen, and Amen!

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Joy to the World!* #270

LIGHTING CANDLES TO SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***CLOSING HYMN** *Silent Night* #253

***BENEDICTION**

Go in peace and in joy, showing and sharing the light of Christ in a world where too many people continue to live in darkness.

POSTLUDE

Carolyn Wallace, Organist

*Those who are able may stand.

BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.



*Sharing
The Light
Of Christ*

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

423 Hebron Road, Staunton, VA 24401

Telephone (540) 885-1648 email: hebronchurch@msn.com

The church office will be closed Dec. 25-26, Dec. 29, Dec. 31, and Jan. 1.



Christmas
Eve
Service

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

~John 1:14

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2008 ~ Christmas Eve ~ 10:00 P.M.

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Order of the Worship of God

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2008

10:00 P.M.

PRELUDE

Carolyn Wallace, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Frank Wyche, Pastor

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Matthew 1: 20b-23

L: Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him [Joseph] in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

P: "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save His people from their sins."

L: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

P: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us).

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER** ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

Good and gracious God, even as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night, as we gather to worship and praise you for the great gift of yourself. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, so that we may clearly see the way before us. Help us to speak and live the truth of our Lord and Savior Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#249

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Christ Candle ~ Doris Riley and Jackie Shearon

SUNG RESPONSE: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 2

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.

UNISON PRAYER ~ Loving God, we rejoice that the Messiah – Emmanuel – has come! You came among us, not in power, but in the form of a child. Even as Jesus humbled himself, teach us humility; even as Jesus came not to be served, but to serve, draw us into a discipleship of service. May our joy and praises come from our hearts, and not just be words, that we recite together. We pray all this in Jesus' name, Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*



Christmas Eve

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ, you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that because of our sin, we have not welcomed the light. Because we do not lean on your strength every minute of every day, we have not trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord, whose real coming into the world we celebrate this night.

(Silent prayer and private confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

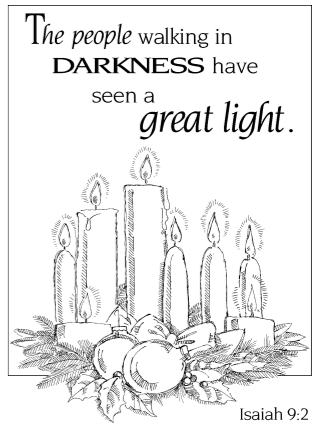
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EVENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (...debtors/debtors...)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Isaiah 9: 2-3b, 6-7 ~ Page 593 in the pew Bible

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace, there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



GOSPEL LESSON ~ John 1: 1-18 ~ Page 922 in pew Bible

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 were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men [*meaning, of all humanity*]. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every person was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. 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 nor of human desire nor of human will, but of God.