

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion

"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." Luke 2:11-12

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Abbie Fields, cello

WELCOME Dr. Jay Howell

PRELUDE GREENSLEEVES
What Child is This?
Shelley Binder, flute

* CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Rachel Hamburger

Leader: From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. (Isaiah 64:4)

People: Because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus . . . you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:4b, 7)

Leader: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together. (Isaiah 40:5)

People: Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace. (2 Peter 3:14)

Leader: The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Mark 1:3)

People: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness. (Isaiah 61:10)

Leader: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

All: Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word. My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Luke 1:38, 46)

* HYMN #41 ADESTE FIDELES
O Come, All Ye Faithful

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*):

Everlasting Father, in an anxious world our hearts tremble as we consider the terror of the darkness that surrounds us. Forgive us. Remind us on this night all joy is born! By Your grace, Dear Lord, may we prepare Him room; not that we might fear the darkness, but that we see the light of heaven around us and give us glory. As you graciously gave yourself in Jesus to redeem us from our sin, help us to live as your joy-filled people. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God ensures a legacy of faithfulness to all generations, always loving, always forgiving, always calling us to new life.

People: As we open our hearts to God, we are filled with the joy that was sung at His birth, with the hope that walked among us, with the grace which is always with us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

* ACT OF PRAISE #40, vs. 1

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

Lee and Susan Hyde

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:6-7

Pew Bible, Page 638

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Some Children See Him
Andrew Skoog, tenor

Alfred Burt

NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 2:1-7

Pew Bible, Pages 1 and 58

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

"Hope in a Sleepy Little Town"

Dr. Jay Howell

* HYMN #44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

THE JOY OFFERING

Rev. Mark Lampley

OFFERTORY

Gesù Bambino
Shelley Binder, flute, and Abbie Fields, cello

Pietro A. Yon

* DOXOLOGY (*Congregation sings.*)

**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!**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Intinction (*Please come forward to receive the elements if you are able. If not, Communion will be served to you in the pew.*)

The Coventry Carol and Midnight Noel

arr. Mark Hayes

Abbie Fields, cello

Prayer of Commitment: We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #60

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

The pastors will light their candles from the Christ Candle of the Advent Wreath and will proceed to light the candles of the elders. The elders in turn will light the candles of the first person in each pew as the congregation sings: "Silent Night, Holy Night."

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able*

There is no childcare for this service.



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

THE CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING will go to the Joy Offering that assists retired pastors and church workers through the Board of Pensions as well as Presbyterian-related ethnic schools and colleges. If you would prefer your offering go toward your pledge or directly to the church's operating budget, please note that on your check.

POINSETTIA AND CHRISTMAS FLOWERS BROCHURES are located in the pew racks.

NEW SERMON SERIES: "Real" begins on January 5 and continues through January 26. What is true fellowship and what keeps us from it? What walls do we put up around ourselves that keep us from truly knowing the Lord and each other? Our pastors will lead us in exploring what Scripture has to say.

INTERESTED IN JOINING SEQUOYAH HILLS PRESBYTERIAN? There will be a visitors class offered Sunday, January 19, between worship services. The class is not required, but it is encouraged.

WEDNESDAY DINNER AND PROGRAMMING RESUMES ON JANUARY 8.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, taught by the pastors, will be offered after Wednesday night suppers beginning January 8. The course is open to all ages and covers the highlights of the gospels, Paul's letters, epistles, and Revelation over 12 weeks. Curriculum is the Bible and a brief commentary guide. This Fast Track Disciple small group runs 6-7:00 p.m. in Spitzer Education Building, Room 322. RSVP to mlampley@sequoyahchurch.org by Monday, January 6.

Rev. Dr. Jay Howell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Mark Lampley, Associate Pastor
Rev. Rachel Hamburger, Associate Pastor
Andrew Skoog, Director of Music
Dr. Eunsuk Jung, Organist/Pianist
Mary Emily Morris, Director of Children's Ministries
Laura Cutter, Director of Youth Ministries
Laurette Beekman, Parish Nurse
Katie McHargue, Business Manager
Dr. William Barron, Pastor Emeritus

jhowell@sequoyahchurch.org
mlampley@sequoyahchurch.org
rhamburger@sequoyahchurch.org
askoog@sequoyahchurch.org
ejung@sequoyahchurch.org
memorris@sequoyahchurch.org
lcutter@sequoyahchurch.org
lbeekman@sequoyahchurch.org
kmchargue@sequoyahchurch.org

SEQUOYAH HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3700 Keowee Avenue | Knoxville, TN 37919
865-522-9804 | SequoyahChurch.org