

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2021 – Christmas Eve
Join us in the sanctuary or by livestream at 4:00 p.m.



Opening Music

“O Holy Night”
Fred Mosher, handbells & chimes

A. Adam

Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 96:1–6

Chen Family

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
² Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
⁴ For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
⁶ Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Sumrow Family

Like the shepherds, we come to the stable,
uncertain of what we have heard and seen,
longing to hear a word of peace and joy.
Like the wise ones, we have journeys to make,
gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts,
that this world can change for the better.

Here, in the stillness of a winter's night,
we gather to share the light of Christ,
a light that shines in the nightfall.
**We gather in the wonder of this night
to share our joy and thanks for new life.**
Let us worship God with awe.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sumrow Family

Opening Prayer

Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Glory to God #133

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Womeku Family

The prophet speaks of God's promises to humankind.

² 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.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Anthem

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"
The Chancel Choir with Ellen Gira, cello

Regney & Shane, arr. Simeone

The Christmas Story

Luke 2: 1-7
Jesus is born.

Garcia Family

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Music for Reflection

“A La Nanita Nana”

arr. Greg Gilpin

*Translation of this well-known Spanish lullaby:
Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby. My Jesus is sleepy, may he be blessed.
Little spring bubbling clearly and loudly.
Nightingale singing plaintively in the forest.
Hush while the cradle is rocking.
Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby. My Jesus is sleepy, may he be blessed.*

Lucille Baur, Donna Dannels,
Becky Herron Mayo, and Barbara Oldroyd, vocalists
Dedicated to the memory of Cynthia Cary, beloved fellow chorister and friend

Luke 2:8–14 and Luke 2:15–20

Scavullo Family

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

