



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Please join us tomorrow for the

Annual Christmas Day Dinner

serving from 3:00—6:00 pm

in the Social Hall

This holiday feast is free and will include a traditional turkey dinner with all of the trimmings along with desserts, holiday music, good cheer and fellowship.

State College Presbyterian Church
Dean Lindsey, Pastor
Michael Ozaki, Associate Pastor
Ned Wetherald, Director of Music Ministry



Christmas Eve

11:00 pm

Prelude Alice Statham, harpist

Introit "Wolcume Yule" -Benjamin Britten

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 9:6-7)

Leader: A child has been born for us, a son given to us; Authority rests on his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor,

People: Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: His authority shall grow continually,

People: and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David.

Leader: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness, from this time onward and forevermore.

People: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: Our Salvation is at hand

People: Christ our peace is coming!

Hymn No. 88 (vs. 1, 2 & 7) "O Come O Come Emmanuel"

Reading: Mary and Gabriel (Luke 1:26-38) Page 831

Leader: Our Salvation is at hand

People: Christ our peace is coming

Poem- Gabriel's Annunciation by Jan Richardson

For a moment
I hesitated
on the threshold.

Hymn No. 122

"Silent Night"

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 Savior is born; Christ the Savior 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.**
4. **Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

After the candles are lit: "Joy to the World"

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.

Benediction

and the lamp in your mouth are the words of consolation you speak.
Then, when the lamp of this mortal life is extinguished, there will appear
for you who had so many lamps shining within you
the light of unquenchable life,
and it will shine for you at the evening of your life
like the brightness of the noonday sun.

Offering

Anthem "Nunc Dimittis" Harry Sterling

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, God of greatness and humility. We praise you as our Creator, Savior, and Comforter. Thank you for coming near to us, to live humbly on earth, as the Prince of Peace. May your Spirit inspire our thanksgiving, not just during this season, but throughout our lives, that our whole lives might be beacons of your love and peace. Amen.

Invitation to the table

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Hymn No. 123 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Candle Lighting

Poem "Shine in the Dark" by Lucy Shaw

From a dark dust of stars
kindled one, a prick of light.
Burn! Small candle star,
Burn in the black night.
In the still hushed heart
(Shadowed as a black night)
Shine! Savior newly born,
Shine till the heart's light!

For the space
of a breath
I paused,
unwilling to disturb
her last ordinary moment,
knowing that the next step
would cleave her life:
that this day
would slice her story
in two,
dividing all the days before
from all the ones
to come.

The artists would later
depict the scene:
Mary dazzled
by the archangel,
her head bowed
in humble assent,
awed by the messenger
who condescended
to leave paradise
to bestow such an honor
upon a woman, and mortal.

Yet I tell you
it was I who was dazzled,
I who found myself agape
when I came upon her—
reading, at the loom, in the kitchen,
I cannot now recall;
only that the woman before me—
blessed and full of grace

long before I called her so—
shimmered with how completely
she inhabited herself,
inhabited the space around her,
inhabited the moment
that hung between us.

I wanted to save her
from what I had been sent
to say.

Yet when the time came,
when I had stammered
the invitation
(history would not record
the sweat on my brow,
the pounding of my heart;
would not note
that I said
Do not be afraid
to myself as much as
to her)
it was she
who saved me—
her first deliverance—
her let it be
not just declaration
to the Divine
but a word of solace,
of soothing,
of benediction

for the angel
in the doorway

Then angels came to calm their fears and tell of the heavenly light.
In word and song they shared the news of the babe who was their king.
They sang of peace and love and joy, and the good will he would bring,
The keepers of the flocks arose and followed the heavenly beam,
but not to gleaming palace walls as it would surely seem.
It led them to an earthen stall where cattle and goats were kept.
And in the manger soft and warm, the little Jesus slept.
Tears filled up their tired eyes and ran down wind burned cheeks.
They had found the promised one, for whom the world still seeks.
Though they were watchers of the flocks, tenders of lamb and ewe,
He was the keeper of God's flock, He was the shepherd true.

Reading: Simeon (Luke 2:21-22, 25-33)

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Leader: Our Salvation is at hand

People: Christ our peace is coming

Poem from "Celebrating the Seasons" (Morehouse) by Gueric of Igny

Behold then, the candle alight in Simeon's hands.
You must light your own candles by enkindling them at his,
those lamps which the Lord commanded you to bear in your hands.
So come to him and be enlightened
that you do not so much bear lamps as become them,
shining within yourself and radiating light to your neighbors.
May there be a lamp in your heart,
in your hand and in your mouth:
let the lamp in your heart shine for yourself,
the lamp in your hand and mouth shine for your neighbors.
The lamp in your heart is a reverence for God inspired by faith;
the lamp in your hand is the example of a good life;

God did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours of anguished shame God came,
and God's light would not go out.
God came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait til the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Hymn No. 133

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Reading: Shepherds (Luke 2:8-14)

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Leader: Our Salvation is at hand

People: Christ our peace is coming

Anthem

"Angel's Carol"

-John Rutter

Reading: Angels (Luke 2:15-20)

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Leader: Our Salvation is at hand

People: Christ our peace is coming

Poem

"Shepherd"

by Sally Meyer

While shepherds careful vigil kept o'er lambs in fields of green.

The sky took on a brilliant glow and lit the grassy scene.

In dread they looked upon the star that rose anew that night.

who would hesitate
one last time—
just for the space
of a breath
torn from his chest—
before wrenching himself away
from her radiant consent,
her beautiful and
awful yes.

Reading: Mary and Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)

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Leader: Our Salvation is at hand

Congregation: Christ our peace is coming

Poem

"Visitation of the Virgin"

by Rainer Maria Rilke

She still walked easily at first,
but in climbing something she was already
aware of her wonderful body—
and then she stood, breathing upon the high
hills of Judea. But not the Land
her abundance was spread about her;
as she went she felt one could never exceed
the bigness she was feeling now.

And she craved to lay her hand
on the other body, that was further on.
And the women swayed towards one another
and touched each other's dress and hair.
Each, filled with her holy possession,

sought protection of her kinswoman.
Ah, the savior in her was still flower,
though the Baptist in her cousin's womb
already leapt in transports of joy.

Anthem "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Arr by Zimmerman

Reading: Joseph (Matthew 1:18-24) Page 783

Leader: Our Salvation is at hand

People: Christ our peace is coming

Poem "Joseph's Song" by Michael Card

How could it be
This Baby in my arms
Sleeping now so peacefully
The Son of God the angel said
How could it be?
Lord, I know He's not my own
Not of my flesh, not of my bones
Still Father let this Baby be
The Son of my love
Father show me where I fit into
This plan of Yours
How can a man be father to the Son of God?
Lord, all my life I've been a simple carpenter
How can I raise a king?
How can I raise a king?

He looks so small
His face and hands so fair

And when He cries the sun just seems to disappear
But when He laughs
It shines again
How could it be?
Father show me where I fit into
This plan of yours
How can a man be father to the Son of God?
Lord, all my life I've been a simple carpenter
How can I raise a king?
How can I raise a king?
How could it be
This Baby in my arms
Sleeping now so peacefully
The Son of God the angel said
How could it be?

Anthem: "This Little Babe" Benjamin Britten

Reading: The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7) Page 832

Leader: Our Salvation is at hand

People: Christ our peace is coming

Poem "First Coming" by Madeleine L'Engle

God did not wait till the world was ready,
till...the nations were at peace.
God came when the heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.
God did not wait for the perfect time.
God came when the need was deep and great.
God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.