



Christmas Eve  
Candlelight  
Worship Service

December 24, 2023





## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### CENTERING PRAYER

Living God, on this holy night we gather—to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

### PRELUDE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Robert Lau

### CHRISTMAS WELCOME

#### † CAROL

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**Hymnal #133**

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Bless Us All  
Alan Naylor

Paul Williams

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus, you are God’s holy child, born of Mary.

**Lord have mercy.**

Jesus, in you all the fullness of God is pleased to dwell.

**Christ have mercy.**

Jesus, you are the Word made flesh, full of grace and truth.

**Lord have mercy.** (Silent Confession)

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

#### † GLORIA PATRI

**Hymnal #581**

#### † CAROL

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**Hymnal #121**

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“Searching, Singing, and Sending”

Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess

#### † CAROL

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**Hymnal #119**

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

John 1:1-5

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

OFFERTORY/CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING    O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Chancel Choir

Dan Forrest

O Holy Night  
Alan Naylor

Adolphe Adam &  
John Sullivan Dwight

† **THE DOXOLOGY**

**Hymnal #609**

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table  
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer  
Words of Institution  
Sharing of the Bread & Cup  
Prayer After Communion

CANDLE LIGHTING

*As the lights are dimmed, the minister will take light from the Christ candle and pass it to the ushers who will carry the light from pew to pew. Please share the light with those around you by tipping the unlit candle toward the lit candle.*

† **CAROL**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night!”**

**Hymnal #122**

† CHARGE, BLESSING, AND CARRYING YOUR LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

*Christmas*

William Stickles

(Please extinguish your candles as you exit the sanctuary.)

† *In body or in spirit, please rise.*



**WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS EVE  
FAMILY SERVICE AT ST. MARK  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!**

May this worship experience deepen your faith and bless your family as we celebrate the miraculous gift of God's light and presence among us.

We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am, in person or online

Wherever you may be on your faith journey, there is a place for you to participate here. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AT ST. MARK**

The church office will be closed Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26, and Monday, January 1. On December 27-29, the office will be open from 9 am – 12 pm. Normal office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership-development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Let's continue St. Mark's tradition of strongly supporting the Christmas Joy Offering. Use the envelope in your packet or simply designate the Joy Offering in the memo line on your check made out to St. Mark.

**GIVING FOR 2023**

All financial gifts need to be delivered to the church office or postmarked by **December 30** to be credited to your 2023 giving statement for IRS purposes.



## **POINSETTIAS**

The beautiful Poinsettias in our Sanctuary were donated by the following families in celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Donna Bosenbecker

Mark & Stacey Caplinger

Peggy Carson

Vicki & Mike Chabot

Laurie Dolson

Pat Eisenberg

Ron & Shirley Goff

Donna Kniep

Glenn Knopf

Laurie Lambie

Bertha Larez

Mike & Marilyn McMillen

Linda Morrison

Casey Pfarr

Becky & Randy Pierce

Rick, Mary Beth & Gaspode Powell

Debbie & Phil Rahn

Judy Richardson

Linda & Hugh Smith

Jean Steward

Nancy Sutch

Mike & Judy Vroman

Bruce Walz

Mark & Carol Weber

Dale Weir

Cathy & Don York



*Pastor: Rev. Dr. J. David Burgess*  
*Associate Pastor: Rev. MP Panco*  
*Dir. of Children's Ministry: Latisha Gilliland*  
*Dir. of Claymont Preschool: Susan Talley*



**ST. MARK**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PC(USA) · BALLWIN, MO

601 Claymont Drive  
Ballwin, MO 63011  
(636)394-2233  
[discoverstmark.org](http://discoverstmark.org)

*Dir. of Music: Ethan Forte*  
*Sunday Accompanist: Jee-Hye Lee*  
*Special Music: Alan Naylor, Chancel Choir*  
*Advent Liturgist: The McBee Family*