

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve 2019 11 pm

Welcome! It is a privilege to have you worship with us. We sincerely hope you receive a blessing from the service. We extend to you an invitation to make this your church home.

Gathering

PRELUDE

PROLOGUE

HYMN #347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (verse 1)*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: This Advent, we have waited. . . And to those lights we add the Christ candle, for the wait is over.

All: Love is here. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN #88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verse 6)*

PRAYER

One: When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

Many: You crept in beside us.

One: And no one knew. Only the few who dared to believe that God might do something different.

Many: Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

One: Will you come into the darkness . . . the doctor's face says it all?

Many: Will you come into that darkness, and do something different, not to distract, but to embrace your people? And will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives?

One: We ask this not because . . . and trusting human hands to hold their maker.

Many: Will you come into our lives if we open them to you and do something different?

One: When the world was dark and the city was quiet you came.

Many: You crept in beside us.

One: Do the same this Christmas, Lord.

Many: Do the same this Christmas. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Wexford Carol
Karina Fengler, soloist

The story of the Birth of Christ in Scripture & Song

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

HYMN #116 *The Snow Lay on the Ground (verses 1,2)*

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:8-14

HYMN #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1,2)*

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:15-20

HYMN #134 *Joy to the World (verses 1,2,4)*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night
Tom Bethman

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

One: Eternal God, Ruler of all worlds and Shepherd of all the stars, whose glory is revealed in vastness and in power, yet whose secret name is Love;
this is the time when we remember your gentleness, hidden in a mother's hope and in the joy of a birth.

Many: This is the time when we believe again, if only for a season, that love is stronger than fear, peace more enduring than enmity, and that the darkness will never put out the light.

One: And so, in this season of midwinter spring, we offer you the joy, the hopes, the dreams of children.

Many: We offer you our gift of gratitude, and we make bold to believe you have graced us with your presence, for we are gathered in the name of Love. Amen.

Sending Forth

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 1:1-5, 14

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

*HYMN #122

Silent Night

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING