

*Frenchtown Presbyterian Church*  
*Christmas Eve 2018 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.*

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*Gathering*

PRELUDE

PROLOGUE

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

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Here is good news of great joy, for all people: God has rescued us from the domain of darkness, and brought us into the realm of Christ, in whom our release is secured, and our sins are forgiven.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never captured it. Let us pray that we may know the warmth and brightness of Jesus Christ and show Christ's love to the world.

**Many: Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now, Hallelujah! 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

*I Wonder as I Wander*  
*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

*In the Bleak Midwinter  
Shari Bethman-Bjellquist*

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