

FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 2017

8:00 p.m.

Welcome friends! We stand together this night amazed at the miracle of the Incarnation – Emmanuel, God with us. Let us fill the sanctuary of the Lord with praise and our hearts with God’s hope, peace, joy and love.

Merry Christmas!

We Gather to Hear the Story

Prelude “O Little Town of Bethlehem” & O Holy Night”

Welcome

Choral Introit “Little Drummer Boy”

Call to Worship

Leader: Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you Good News of great joy.

People: To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Leader: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace!

All: Let us go now to Bethlehem and worship the newborn King.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Carol #133 vs 1,3,4 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

The Christmas Story in Scripture and Song

A Reading for the Old Testament Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from the Gospel Luke 2:1-7

Solo – Christina Bethman “Mary Did you Know?”

A Reading from the Gospel Luke 2:8-14

Choral Anthem “Let There be Peace on Earth”

A Reading from the Gospel Luke 2:15-20

Carol #113 vs 1 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Sermon

“There is the Light of Wonder in the Darkness of Uncertainty”

Carol #147 “The First Nowell”

Christmas Prayer

We Respond to the Story with Thanksgiving

Offering our Gifts (a portion of the Christmas Eve offering will support the Presbyterian Christmas Joy Fund)

Offertory - Special Music

Presentation of Tithes and Gifts

*Sung Response #144 vs 4 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

*Prayer of Dedication

*Carol #119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

We Carry the Light into the World

A Reading from the Gospel John 1:1-5, 14

The Spreading of the Light from the Christ Candle

(As we pass the light of Christ, please hold the candle that is already lit in an upright position. Those receiving the light of Christ should tilt their unlit candle until lit)

Candlelight Carol Medley

*Carol #121 vs. 1 & 5 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*Carol #115 vs.1 & 2 “Away in a Manger”

*Carol #122 vs.1-3 & vs 1 repeated softly “Silent Night”

Christmas Blessing

Postlude “What Child is This?”

Merry Christmas

Sunday, December 31st, New Year’s Eve One Service at 10 am.

Wednesday, January 24th - *Hope and Healing Service* at 7pm

Saturday, December 30th - Open House at the Manse, 4-9pm.

As we come to the end of 2017, consider a gift to Frenchtown Presbyterian Church in support of its meaningful ministries.

The church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year.

We will reopen on January 2nd