

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve 2018 8 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

WELCOME

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.

People: Unto us a child is born. Alleluia!

Leader: Tonight the angels sing on earth.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

READING

Christmas Comes by Ann Weems

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given!

People: God has brought light into every darkness.

Leader: The promises of God are fulfilled! Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God! Everlasting Father! Prince of Peace!

People: We hear, even today, a chorus of angels bringing good news of great joy to all the people.

Leader: We light the Candle of Christ -- witness to the Savior who is Christ the Lord.

People: Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.

Proclamation and Response

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

God of mangers and palaces, of shepherds and kings, reveal yourself to us here in the mystery and magic of the season.

Free us to see the signs of your promise and hear the whispers of good news.

May we join the songs of joy that proclaim to the world your presence among us.

May we glorify and praise you in ways that might convince the world of your grace and transform us all according to your love. Amen.

The story of the Birth of Christ in Scripture & Song

Luke 2:1-5

Hymn # 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 1)

Luke 2:6-7

Hymn # 115

Away in a Manger (verse 1)

Luke 2:8-12

Hymn # 118

While Shepherd Watched Their Flocks (verses 1-3)

Luke 2:13-14

Hymn # 113

Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1,3)

Luke 2:15-16

Anthem

Still, Still, Still

Luke 2:17-18

Hymn # 110

Love Has Come (verses 1,2)

Luke 2:19-20

Anthem

In Dulci Jubilo

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

RESPONSE HYMN # 144 *In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHRISTMAS PRAYER (*unison*)

**Loving God, if Jesus alone is born this night,
we have missed the point.**

Bring us to new birth

—the awakening of mind to ponder the wonder of this
night

—the illumination of heart to sense the joy of
Christmas

—the stirring of imagination to envision the host of
angels

—the quickening of spirit to behold the good news of
peace and goodwill

—the enlivening of passion to go unto Bethlehem and
worship the Christ Child.

**O God of the Nativity, be born anew in each of us, and
in all the world. Amen.**

Sending Forth

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 1:1-5

*THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

*HYMN #122

Silent Night

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE