



Carrollton Presbyterian Church

A Heart In The City

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022
5:00 PM



PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

We welcome you to Carrollton Presbyterian Church. Let the Musical Meditation be a call to reverent silence in which all may become aware of His presence.

CENTERING PRAYER

O Emmanuel, our sovereign and lawgiver. Desire of the nations and Savior of all:
Come and save us, O Lord our God. Come, Lord Jesus.

MUSICAL MEDITATIONS

Away In A Manger Medley

William Kirkpatrick
James Murray

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

OPENING SENTENCES

Bill Hodge

Light shines on those who live in darkness,
For a child is born to us this night.

PRELUDE

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Snyder Family

My Story is..

Just beginning, still unfolding

My story is...

A bit messy, with lots of love; one of resilience

My story is...

A work in progress. My story is not just mine, it's tied to yours

Tonight we tell the story that we tell every year - the story of Christ's birth, the story of love made flesh. It's a story that weaves through every generation. It's a story that picks up with bits and pieces of our narrative and braids us together.

So tonight we light the Christ candle, because from generation to generation, our story belongs to God. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*CAROL

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

GTG # 123

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

The prayer of confession is not designed to make anyone feel guilty, for eyes cast down and shoulders hung low. The prayer of confession is an invitation. It's an opportunity to say, "This is who I have been, and this is who I long to be." As we pray together, let us be truth tellers, holding our head high and speaking honestly before God and one another.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

Holy God, we admit - we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

We are not familiar with angel choruses.

We have not walked miles to be counted in a census,

and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.

We don't fully understand this story, which sometimes makes us hesitant to tell it. Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we can imagine,

we whisper this good news.

Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.

Instead of telling the next generation why this story matters so much,

we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

Forgive us our silence.

Forgive us for our hesitation.

Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

No matter where we go, no matter what we say, no matter what we do, We belong to God. We are held, we are loved, we are forgiven. Amen.

*GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard on High
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

GTG # 113
Refrain

SPECIAL MUSIC

Two Nativity Carols

Gary E. Parks

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN		Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION		Bill Hodge
LESSON FROM THE PROPHETS	Isaiah 9: 2-7	Bill Hodge
This is the Word of the Lord!	Pew Bible OT # 638	
Thanks be to God!		
ANTHEM	Still, Still, Still	Robert A. Hobby
	Traditional Austrian Carol	
GOSPEL LESSON	Luke 2:1-20	Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
This is the Word of the Lord!	Pew Bible NT # 58	
Thanks be to God!		
SERMON	From Generation to Generation: We Tell the Story	Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
*CAROL	Angels We Have Heard on High	GTG # 113

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night, because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us.		
We believe in bundling up this hope, this good news, and passing it on - to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us.		
I believe that my voice can make a difference, just like I believe this story can make a difference, so I will not stay quiet.		
I will tell this story - of a love that makes room for all.		
I will sing this story - of a love that knows our name.		
I will live this story - because love has come again.		
I believe that words have power.		
I will not stay quiet. Amen.		
JOYS AND CONCERNS		Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS		Bill Hodge
OFFERTORY	Who Would Think That What Was Needed (You are invited to bring your offering to the plate on the Communion Table)	
*THE DOXOLOGY	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	GTG # 606
	<i>Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.</i>	
*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING		Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
*CAROL	What Child Is This?	GTG # 145

* You are invited to stand, if able

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We Lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... therefore with all creation, we sing your praise:

Come, Savior, quickly come; come Savior, quickly come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

GTG # 92

Verse 3

...Great is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Please walk down the two center aisles which lead from the two entrances of the church. Those who are on the back pews should come forward first. All bread is gluten free. Once you have received communion, please return to your seat using the two outside aisles. If you need our servers to come to you, please alert one of the ushers.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

In the Bleak Midwinter

G. Holst, C. Rossetti, & A. Smith

CPC Scholarship Students accompanied by Leslie Goldsmith

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

FOLLOWING GOD INTO THE WORLD

*CAROL

Silent Night

GTG # 122

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

*CAROL

Joy to the World

GTG # 134

*RECESSIONAL

Silent Night

Franz Xaver Gruber

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

Liturgist:

Bill Hodge

Music Director:

Julie Lowry

Organist:

Bryant Hand

Pianist:

Leslie Goldsmith

Musical Meditations:

Mary Anne Taylor

Virtual Worship Technicians:

Keith and Robin Ellison, Steven Gross,
& Jane Taylor

Ushers:

Jay & Candy Horsley



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Liturgy by Sarah Are Speed from A Sanctified Art: From Generation to Generation

Bulletin Cover Image: "How God Shows Up" by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity