

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

www.rpcerie.org

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

Worship Theme: *"The long period of waiting is over. At long last, our Savior is born in a lowly manger in Bethlehem, the City of David. This tiny baby will grow to manhood and through His life, death, and resurrection, He has brought eternal healing that has blessed our lives."*

Prelude: *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*.....arr. Innes
Shirley W. Wilson, organist

All Through the NightWelsh Folk Tune
Ryan Sesler, soloist

Call to Worship Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Hear us, O shepherd of Israel. You lead your people gently and kindly.

Congregation: You sent us your light and your salvation.

Liturgist: Hear us and restore us, Lord God Almighty. Help us to hear you and know you are here.

Congregation: Jesus Christ is our Lord, our light and our salvation. Let us praise and worship him together.

***Carol No. 41:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*..... ADESTE FIDELES

Bidding Prayer and

The Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)..... Thomas Brooks

The First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15..... Andrew Gordon

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

The Congregation will please remain seated.

Hymn No. 309: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.....DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
First verse only

(...continued over...)

The Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18Isabel Pontzer

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

***Carol No. 9:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*..... VENI EMMANUEL

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Ryan Sesler

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Musical Interlude: *The Wexford Carol* Traditional Irish Carol
arr. Jonathan Moser

Jonathan and Mary Moser, violins

Good people all this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind,
What our good God for us has done,
In sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born.

The Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4 Christopher LeSuer

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

The Congregation will please remain seated.

Carol No. 44: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.....St. LOUIS

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38.....Patrick Pontzer

The Angel Gabriel greets the virgin Mary and foretells the birth of Jesus.

The Congregation will please remain seated.

Carol No. 48: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ES IST EIN ROS

The Sixth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-24Marykay Stahl

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

***Carol No. 31:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*..... MENDELSSOHN

The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16Brent Sesler

The Shepherds go to the manger.

The Congregation will please remain seated.

Carol No. 59: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*..... CHRISTMAS

(...continued over...)

A Meditation Reading: *How well do we know God?* Lisa Gordon
Adapted from Schaeffer, Dan. *In Search of the Real Spirit of Christmas.*
Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers, 2003.

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 Susan Brooks
The Magi visit the Messiah.

The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 Robert LeSuer
St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

A Meditation Reading: *The Word Made Flesh* Lisa Gordon
Adapted from Polkinghorne, John. *Living with Hope: A Scientist Looks at
Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany.*
Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.

Offering: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*..... arr: Eithun
“Redeemer Ringers” Handbell Ensemble—The Sesler Family

Instructions for Lighting of the Candles..... Thomas Brooks
(For safety, in order to pass the flame from one candle to another, please hold the
lighted candle upright and tip the unlighted candle to the lighted candle.)

Lighting of the Christ Candle..... Jennifer Pontzer and
Robert LeSuer, *Ruling Elders*

Liturgist: Break forth, O Heavenly Light and reign from
age to age.

Liturgist: Shine forever and let no more greed or hatred
rule in our hearts.

**Congregation: Illumine and save all creation. You outshine
all lights, even the stars and the sun.**

Liturgist: We bring the light from the Christ candle to you.

Liturgist: It symbolizes how Christ has brought His light
to each of our lives.

***Lighting of the Congregational Candles**

We light these candles to signify the coming of Christ, the Light of the world.

***Carol No. 60: Silent Night**..... *STILLE NACHT*
accompanied by the “Redeemer Ringers” Handbell Ensemble—The Sesler Family

***Benediction** (*unison, spoken to each other*) Thomas Brooks

**Lord, You have brought Light into the world and to each
of us through Your birth and life. May we go into a needy
world this night with the hope, peace, joy, and love You
have brought to us, empowered by your Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

At the conclusion of the Benediction, the Congregation is dismissed.

Postlude: *Hark! The Glad Sound*arr. Burkhardt

** The Congregation will please stand, if you are able to do so.*

We Invite You to Join Us Each Sunday

If you are visiting with us on this Christmas Eve, the people of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (EPC) wish to extend a warm, personal invitation for you to join us on Sunday, December 31st, and each Sunday thereafter, for worship at 11:00 a.m. here in this sanctuary.

For More Information

We encourage those of you who would like to learn more about this church, or the Evangelical Presbyterian Church denomination, to please visit our website:

<http://www.rpcerie.org>

