

**The Presbyterian Church of Palatine
Christmas Eve**

December 24, 2011

4:30 p.m.

Gathering of the People

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* Isaiah 9:6

Prelude *Wasn't That a Mighty Day* arr. Hairston

Greeting

***Hymn #41** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God. The candle we light tonight, the Christ candle, symbolizes that the light of Christ has come into the world. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity and empowers us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

The Christ candle is lit.

Reader: Over the weeks of Advent, we have remembered people who live in difficult circumstances. Those who suffer domestic violence, those who are unemployed or underemployed, the people of the Horn of Africa in the midst of famine and drought, and the people of Cuba who have lived under oppression for so very long. These are all people who have suffered or continue to suffer. Tonight we claim the light of Christ not only for them but for people everywhere.

People: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth - born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life showing the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries; his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.

Proclamation of the Good News

Children's Time A Service of Las Posadas (Shelter) for the Holy Family

The Story of Jesus' Birth

The Nativity Luke 2: 1-7

Hymn #25 (all verses) *Away in a Manger*
(remain seated)

The Announcement to the Shepherds Luke 2: 8-14

Hymn #23 (verses 1 and 2) *Angels We Have Heard on High*
(remain seated)

The Visit of the Shepherds Luke 2: 15-20

***Hymn 44** (verses 1 and 2) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
(please stand)

Meditation

Dr. Dempsey

Response to the Good News

Offering Our Gifts to God

Anthem *The First Noel* arr. Forrest

***Offertory Response**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Communion of the People *Please come forward, take the bread, dip it into the cup, and partake. Then take a candle from the usher located next to the communion servers, tip your candle into the flame of the lit candle and return to your seats with the lighted candle. Lighted candles should be held upright. Parents, please help children as needed.*

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Light of Christ: The Candlelighting Service

*Carol #60 (insert)

Silent Night, Holy Night

*Benediction

Please extinguish your candles

*Postlude *(Please join in singing Hymn #40)* Joy to the World!

***Please stand if you are able**

Welcome to all who visit with us tonight! WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!
Please sign the black friendship pads located in each pew
and pass them to others.

This Evening

Lay Readers: George Craig, Judy Craig, Riley Grady, Dave Haggett, Jack Haggett, Katie Haggett

Communion Servers: Janet Bedsole, George Craig, Lizanne Lehman

Soloist: Ingrid Lestrud

Ushers: Jennifer Garraway, Caroline Knoff, Lizanne Lehman, Marge Pearson

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