

The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

*If you are able, please stand.



11:00 p.m.

Nativity of the Lord

Please turn off cell phones.

“Christianity does not agree with the optimistic thinkers who say, “We can fix things if we try hard enough.” Nor does it agree with the pessimists who see only a dystopian future. The message of Christianity is, instead, “Things really are this bad, and we can’t heal or save ourselves. Things really are this dark—nevertheless, there is hope.” The Christmas message is that ‘on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.’ Notice that it doesn’t say from the world a light has sprung, but upon the world a light has dawned. Dawn comes from outside. There is light outside of this world, and Jesus has brought that light to save us; indeed, he is the Light (John 8:12).”

Timothy Keller,
Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ



SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Prelude

Barry Spatz, piano

Introit

O Holy Night
Sierra Joy

Adolphe Adam

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of our dear Savior’s birth.*

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Pastor Greg Horn

***Carol 133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(verses 1, 3 & 4)

Adeste Fideles

Lesson I

Genesis 3:1-4, 6-9
Elena Juliano

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You¹ shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”
²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die.
⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened...
⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

Lesson II**Isaiah 9:2, 6; Luke 1:26-31, 38**
Ravon Middlebrooks

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

⁶For 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.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your Word."

Solo*Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*
Will Horn

spiritual

*Jesus, Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful child
Jesus, Jesus, So lowly meek and mild
New life, new hope, new joy he brings
Won't you listen to the angels sing?
Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King*

Lesson III**Luke 2:1-5**
Sierra Joy

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Carol 121 (seated)*O Little Town of Bethlehem*
(verses 1 & 4)

St. Louis

Lesson IV**Matthew 1:18-20, 24; Luke 2:7**
Will Horn

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit... ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife...

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Christmas Message

Solo

A Child Is Born

Thad Jones

Elena Juliano

*A ray of hope flickers in the sky
A tiny star lights up way up high
All across the land, dawns a brand new morn
This comes to pass when a child is born*

Lesson V

Luke 2:8-18

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Carol 147 (seated)

The First Nowell
(verses 1 & 2)

English carol

Christmas Prayer

We Bring Our Offerings

Prayer Dedicating Our Gifts

Solo

Mary, Did You Know?

Mark Lowry

Ravon Middlebrooks

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered will soon deliver you.*

*The blind will see. The deaf will hear, and the dead will live again.
The lame will leap. The dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.*

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

*Lighting of the Christ Candle and Candle Lighting

One: The earth was without form, and shadows covered the face of the deep;
Then God said, "Let there be light; and there was light."

All: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.
Arise then, and shine!
In Jesus Christ, God's light is come!

[We light our candles.]

The flame from the Christ Candle will be used
to light the candles of the ushers,
who then proceed down the center aisle,
lighting the candles at the start of each row.
As you sing, please keep candles upright.]

*Carol 134

Joy to the World
(verses 1, 2 & 4)

Antioch

*Lesson VI

John 1:1-5

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him
not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the
light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

*Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*
*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at Thy birth, Jesus Lord at Thy birth.*
*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

[We extinguish our candles.]



Welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair and thank you for your contribution to this service of worship on this holy night.

If you are searching for...

a place to find God and be found by God,

a place where your voice and your gifts matter,

*a Christ-centered place where you will be challenged to think independently
and feel deeply,*

then may this be a place where God is calling you to be. Merry Christmas!

HEARTFELT THANKS to soloists/readers this Christmas Eve: Elena Juliano, Will Horn, Sierra Joy, and Ravon Middlebrooks—and to guest pianist-musical director Barry Spatz, a longtime friend of and contributor to PCUM and currently an accompanist at Montclair State University's Cali School of Music, where he works in the theatre, dance and music department. Barry also works as a substitute musician/conductor for Broadway shows including *Lion King* and *Funny Girl*.

WORSHIP AT PCUM is at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday throughout the year. Children begin each Lord's Day by worshipping in the sanctuary with their church family and then move on to learning in their Sunday School classes. All services are live streamed on the church's YouTube channel. Childcare is provided on Sundays for infants and toddlers through 11:30 a.m. and for other events in the life of the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is offered every Sunday morning. Children have a central role in every Sunday morning worship service and then children preschool through 7th grade move to Sunday School programming. PCUM is committed to providing adults as well as the youngest in this church family with the tools to relate their faith in Jesus Christ to living in today's world. For more information or to register your child(ren) for the Sunday School program, please contact Director of Christian Education Millie Tourtelot at millie@pcum.org.

SERVING NEIGHBORS IN NEED – Members and friends of this congregation prepare and serve hot meals here in Montclair and in Newark every month—providing supplies and personal care items to neighbors in need—and PCUM's youth serve homeless neighbors in New York City and go on national and international mission trips, partnering with fellow Christians to fight poverty and demonstrate God's love. To take part or learn more, contact the Church Office (pcum@pcum.org) or Pastor Greg Horn (greghorn@pcum.org).

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION CLASSES are offered in the spring and again in the fall for those considering membership in the life and ministry of this active congregation. Contact Pastor Greg Horn (greghorn@pcum.org).

CONFIRMATION CLASS prepares 8th graders for a life of Christian faith-fulness and full membership in the life and ministry of PCUM. Confirmation meets Sunday mornings from September through May.

YOUTH GROUP: PCUM's teens are active in service, fellowship, fun and learning! Middle Schoolers meet Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. with Youth Directors, Garrett Pahl & Sierra Joy.



Thank you to all who dedicated flowers for PCUM's Christmas Eve services

*In loving memory of our grandparents
and Jenn's mom, Paula
given by the Snyder family*

*In loving memory of
Milton & Elizabeth Rainey
given by Linda Layden & family*

*In loving memory of
William Layden
given by Linda Layden & family*

*In loving memory of
John Hofmann & Roger Sutton
given by the Hofmann family*

*Given in loving memory of
Katie Ladany & Brian Smith
by Lisa Cowan Brescia & Nick Giglia*

*In joyful memory of our father
Robert T. Brescia
given by Mark, Lisa & Ellen Cowan Brescia*

*In loving memory of
Frankie & Bill Looney
and Janet & John Phillips
given by Laura & John Phillips*

*In loving memory of our parents
given by the Siedsmas*

*Given in memory of
Grace Mazurek Marsh
Paul Foster and Patricia Ely Foster
loving parents and grandparents
by Pam, Chris, Emma & Abby Foster*

*Given in loving memory of our dear parents –
Bob & Helen Lee
and Alvan & Harriette Culbertson
by Janet Lee & Steve Culbertson*

*In loving memory of
loved ones in the Bonelli/Teaze family
given by Paul & Pam Bonelli*

*In loving memory of
Harry Bennett Johnson, Sr.
given by the Ben Johnson family*

*Given in celebration of
the birth of Jesus Christ
by the Rahaghi family*

*In loving memory of
Paul Baker
given by Barbara Baker*

*Given in loving memory of
George & Marian Jenkins
and Jack & Madeleine Dicks
by the Jenkins family*

*Given in celebration of
the birth of our granddaughter
Madeline Cecilia Moran
by Rick & Jackie Jenkins*

*Given in loving memory of
Dot & Dick Ellis
from Bill, Sue, the Kruckows & Jarretts*

*Given in loving memory of
Rebecca Wampler and Jeffrey Wampler
by the Browning family*

*Given in celebration of
Audrey McKenna,
Rob Decker and Jack Decker
by Bonnie McKenna*

*Given in joyous celebration of
Frank IV, Julie & Lauren Schramm
by the Schramm family*

*Given to the glory of God
by the Morton & Byrne families*

*In loving memory of
Betty Horn
Margaret Touborg Rothschild
and Dr. Jens N.F. Touborg
by Sarah, Greg, Will, and Maggie Horn*

*Given in honor of our parents
Denise & Silvano Valle
and Mary Alice & Rob Rippe,
by Lizzie & Chris Valle*

*In celebration of Granny, Papa,
Grandpa and Uncle Ed,
given with joyful anticipation
of this wonder of wonders
by the Johnson & Loccke families*

*Given in celebration of our children
and in loving memory of
our family members that have gone before us
by CJ & Elisabeth Miller*

*In loving memory of
Donald & Sara Meserlian
given by the Meserlian family*

*Given in loving memory of
Claire & Mel Pahl
Lenore & Walter Moomjy
by Andrea Moomjy & Rob Pahl*

*Given in celebration of
the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ
by Andrew & Smita Kennedy*

*In loving memory of our parents
George & Perk Prater
Joan & Jack Steinle
given by Gretchen & Sandy Prater*

*In loving memory of
Griffin Allen and Elizabeth Goldman
given by the Hanawald Rabin family*

*In loving memory of
Lillian Leung
given by Matt & Esther Richards & family*

*In loving memory of our mothers,
Priscilla Kinney and Rita Lubenesky
given by John & Kate Lubenesky*

*In loving memory of
Anne Kinney Dacey,
given by Kate Lubenesky*

*Given in memory of loved ones
by the Dickson family*

*If you have dedicated Christmas plants, please consider leaving them
in the chancel for the 11 pm Christmas Eve service.
Plants may be picked up after the 11pm service or during regular Church Office hours. Thank you!*



PCUM's Core Values

Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship ✝ *Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth* ✝
Relationships ✝ *Participation* ✝ *Service to Others and to the World* ✝ *Relevance and Authenticity*

The Presbyterian Church
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Pastor & Head of Staff:

The Rev. Gregory A. Horn

Director of Music Ministries:

Anne Marie Juliano

Director of Christian Education: Millie Tourtelot

Children's Programs/Co-Youth Leader: Sierra Joy

Co-Youth Leader: Garrett Pahl

Church Administrator: Denise Silecchia

Nursery/Toddler Room Attendant: Taryn Ellis

Livestream Techs: Tres Williams, Jerome Nelson

Custodian: Jimmy Abad