

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Conestoga Mennonite Church (CMC)

December 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Hymns will be led from the CMC Christmas Carols Booklet by Music Coordinator Krista Petersheim. Hymns and several groups accompanied by pianist Carmen Weber.

Piano Prelude Rachel Mast

Call to Worship: Pastor Bob
L: Rejoice! God is with us! In the dark polarities of our world

Cong: God's holy light shines.

L: Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

Cong: We have reason to live with joy.

L: We are not alone.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Opening Prayer Dir. of Worship Kristy Unruh

Worship in Song
CCC #20 "Joy To the World"
CCC #26 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Is. 9:6-7, Jn. 1:1-5: Prophecy of the Messiah Fred & Janet Peachey

Instrumentals by Carmen Weber and Jody Essick: "*Sing We Now of Christmas*" & "*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*"

Mt. 1:18-25 & Lighting the Christ Candle: The coming of Jesus is announced Charles Ivan & Ann Stoltzfus

Worship in Song
CCS #29 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
CCS #40 "What Child Is This?"

Luke 2:1-5: Preparation for Christ's Birth Zach Johnson

Quartet by Sonya Stoltzfus, Freda Petersheim, Rachel Mast & Kristy Unruh
"In the Bleak Midwinter" acc. Carmen Weber: piano; Mindy Beam: flute

Luke 2:4-7: Birth of Jesus Sandy Bailey

Prayer of Confession

L: Merciful God, we confess there are times we don't want to face reality that this child came to convict us and challenge us.

Cong: Forgive us, O Lord.

L: We confess that at times we find your good news unsettling.

Cong: Forgive us, O Lord.

L: We confess that too often we want our kingdom to come and our will to be done on earth.

Cong: Forgive us, O Lord.

L: Give us the courage to open ourselves to the wonder and healing of your coming. So that you might be born anew into our hearts and lives, we invite you to hear now each of our silent confessions this night.

Silent prayers of Confession

Declaration of God's Pardon

L: The true light that enlightens us has come into the world.

Cong: Thanks be to God!

L: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out.

Cong: Thanks be to God!

L: This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen, and Amen!

Christmas Story: "A Dozen Christmas Roses" Author Unknown
Read by Mike Petersheim

Solo by Johanna Essick accompanied by Cheryl Heineman & Carmen Weber "*Here with us*"

Candle Lighting – CCS#34 "Silent Night" – Sing verses after brief intro.
Please keep lit candles upright

Benediction and Sending

*Postlude as we exit in quiet reverence. **Candles may be returned to the lobby table as you exit the sanctuary.***

Special thanks to support staff including Dan Mast on Sound and Live Streaming!