

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service At The Barn December 24, 2021



## Trinity Presbyterian Church Palm Coast, Florida

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## Christmas Eve at The Barn

*An unmarried teenage girl was invited—to carry Christ into this world. An ordinary carpenter was invited—to be a father to a child unlike any other. The shepherds were invited—outcast and isolated, included at the manger. The Magi were invited—foreigners and seekers, included at the manger. And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited —then we can trust that we too are invited. This story is for us. This love is for us. Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home. Amen.*<sup>+</sup>

Prelude "Welcome to Our World" with "Away in a Manger" arr. Page  
Welcome and Announcements

Christmas Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Candle Lighting<sup>+</sup> *The Beebe Family*

In this sacred time and space,  
we are welcomed home.

Here in God's house,  
there is hope (*the first candle is lit*)

**For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.**

In God's house,  
there is peace (*the second candle is lit*)

**For all that separates us from God falls away.**

In God's house,  
there is joy (*the third candle is lit*)

**Because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors, and laughter that is contagious, and peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God's fingerprints, then God's house surely exudes joy.**

In God's house,  
there is love (*the fourth candle is lit*)

**Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.**

And in the center of our hope, our peace, our joy and our love is God, Emmanuel—who entered our home to dwell among us.

So tonight we light the Christ candle,  
for God's love just could not stay away.

Family of faith, welcome home.

**Let us worship God.**

Call of Confession<sup>+</sup>

Prayer of Confession<sup>+</sup>

**Holy God,**

**You throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. However, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We hold our breath. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth**

**for ourselves and others. Forgive us for ignoring your invitation to be the people you call us to be. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears to not only hear your invitation, but to trust that this good news exists even for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

*(Silence for Reflection)*

Words of Forgiveness<sup>+</sup>

Family of faith,

Even when we fail to trust God's love, and even when we fail to love others as we should, God still loves us. That door *never* closes. So hear and believe this good news:

**God invites us into a life of faith. God loves us through every season of life. God forgives us when we lose our way and invites us deeper every step of the way. We are loved, invited, claimed, celebrated, and forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

Christmas Carol "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"

Prayer for Illumination<sup>+</sup>

Holy God,

We've heard this story a million times—

Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds.

We've heard it a million times,

but we want to hear it like it's the first.

So move among us. Circle back. Draw close.

Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness.

Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to us with curiosity, joy, and hope. This is an invitation.

Come be here with us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Anthem – Madelyn May "O Holy Night"

Offering of our Gifts<sup>+</sup>

Jesus was not born in a real home. He was born into poverty.

He was born into simplicity. He was born into a manger in

Bethlehem. And despite the little he might have had, Jesus still spent the rest of his days on earth giving to others. Generosity is in

the DNA of our faith. We give what we can, not because we *should* or because scripture says to. We give because we're family. We

give because we belong to one another. We give because all are invited into God's house. So might we share our gifts.

Christmas Carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

The Way Home

Anthem – Jason Wheeler "The First Nowell"

Gospel Lesson John 1:1-14

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things



came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being<sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.<sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.<sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.<sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.<sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Meditation "On this Night" Dr. Jeff Beebe

Lighting of Luminaries

Christmas Carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" Stille Nacht

Sending Prayer<sup>+</sup>

Gracious God,  
Your story is one that forever invites us to be our full selves, to take up space, to go where we feel called, and to allow this community to feel like home. So use these gifts to keep building your home here. With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. Amen.

Christmas Carol "Joy to the World"

Postlude "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria



*We at Trinity Palm Coast wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas!*

*The old life is gone, and the new life is begun.  
That has been, that is, and that will be forever the  
Good news of the Gospel.  
Merry Christmas.*

<sup>+</sup> Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

**Refrain:**

O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

2 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]



**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Refrain:**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]



**Silent Night, Holy Night**

1 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.

2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

3 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.

4 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.

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**Joy to the World**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations  
prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.