

**Greenhills Community
Church, Presbyterian**
21 Cromwell Road,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45218
513-825-8400
ghccp.org

Christmas Day
December 25, 2022, 10:00 am
Room 107
Zoom Codes: 824 7351 2283



[* At this sign, please rise in body or in spirit; **bold text** indicates congregation's responses.]

Welcome and Announcements

Liturgist: Lee Sanders

Prelude

Lighting the Advent Candle

Even now we simply do not expect to find a deity in a stable. Somehow the setting is all wrong: the swaddling clothes too plain, the manger too common for the likes of a Savior, the straw inelegant, the animals, reeking and noisy, the whole scene too ordinary for our taste. And the cast of characters is no better. With the possible exception of the kings, who among them is fit for this night? The shepherds? Certainly, too crude, the carpenter too rough, the girl too young. And the baby! Whoever expected a baby? Whoever expected the advent of God in a helpless child? Had the Messiah arrived in the blazing light of the glory of a legion of angels wielding golden swords, the whole world could have been conquered for Christ right then and there and we in the church—to say nothing of the world!—wouldn't have so much trouble today. Even now we simply do not expect to face the world armed with love. (Ann Weems)

[The candles are lit.]

Response #83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (v. 3)

STUTTGART

Prayer of the Day

Loving God, throughout the ages you kept seeking us out, coming to us through the voices of prophets and sages, kings, and shepherds, inviting us to see your presence in our world. May we experience the joy of knowing that from the beginning of time, you desire to walk alongside of us in every way. **Amen.**

***Hymn #132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

The Shepherds' Story

Reading

John 1:1-5
Luke 2:8-11

NRSV NT, p. 91
NRSV NT, p. 58

Hymn #118

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

CHRISTMAS

[The Shepherds enter.]

Confession (in unison)

O God, we look at your world, the beauty of the stars in the sky and the sun as it rises over the fields, and we wonder, who are we, that you would care about us? When we have days filled with troubles, it's easy for us to believe that either you don't care or that we are not valuable enough to be cared about. We long to see your face and to feel your protective hand. Forgive us, O God, when we ignore your presence and doubt your love. Open our eyes to see your face and turn our doubt into wonder.

Silence is observed.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Once you were no people, but now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God; in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Response #119

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (v. 1)

MENDELSSOHN

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, it is true that we hunger to fully know you. As we continue to listen to your Word, may you open our hearts to receive and accept the promises contained in it. **Amen.**

Reading

Luke 2:10-20

NRSV NT, p. 58

[The Shepherds return.]

Hymn #145

What Child is This?

GREENSLEEVES

[The Shepherds reflect.]

Hymn # 158

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

MARY'S CHILD

[The Shepherds continue to reflect.]

Hymn # 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

We Give Back

Invitation

Offertory

***Doxology #606**

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, you gave to us what we could not give ourselves. In gratitude, we give to you our hearts, our work, ourselves. May you use us, and our resources, to bring about the change our world so desperately needs. **Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn # 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

[The Shepherds respond.]

***Hymn # 136**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

***Charge and Benediction**

(Please be seated to enjoy the Postlude.)

Postlude

Sources:

Thanks to Rev. Barb Tesorero for writing the script for today's service and permitting us to use it!
Poem "*The Child is Born Again*," by Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*.

Participants:

Liturgist: Lee Sanders

Greeters: Helen Ferguson, Linda Ferguson

Sound: Cliff Kizuka, Jim Hadley

Music Director: Brad Caldwell

Zoom Hosts: Vince Greene, Jim H.

Counters: Chris Newcomer, Jim Hadley

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DATES

TODAY

Merry Christmas!!

THIS WEEK

Monday, December 26

– AA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Room 209

Tuesday, December 27

– Square Dance Class, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

--Session Meeting, 7:00 pm, Room 209

Wednesday, December 28

--Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 am, Fellowship Hall

– Support group, 6:30-7:30, Room 204 (contact Dr. Stephen Benoit for info: call at 513-909-4242 or message at Stephencbenoit@outlook.com)

– AA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Room 209

– Al-Anon, 7:00 p.m., Room 210

– Square Dancing, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 30

– AA Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Room 209

Saturday, December 31

– New Year's Eve

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday, January 6

--Twelfth Night celebration, 7:00 pm, Room 107

It will be a great evening of fellowship, music, and food, and the proceeds will support our music scholars. See the office or Brad Caldwell for tickets! (Some scholarships will be available!)