BUCKINGHAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH   December 24, 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE
PUBLIC WORSHIP 7:00 P.M.
David Norton, CRE

> LARGE PRINT hymnals available
> *All who are able may stand

THE GATHERING

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: *"Journey to Bethlehem"* – Nicolas Lebèque
GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS
   (Friendship Pads – Sign & pass to end of pew)
CALL TO WORSHIP: (Leader/**People**)
   Joy to the world! - **The Lord has come.**
   Peace on earth! - **The Savior reigns.**
   Bring your gifts before the holy child, - **God-with-us born in a manger!**
   Let us worship God.
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
*HYMN #277 (CELEBRATION Hymnal) *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:
   O God, as we remember the story of the holiest night, lead us to know the good news of Christ's birth for all people, even us. We want to imagine ourselves on the first Christmas day: worshiping with the shepherds, bowing with the animals, or praying with Mary for peace on earth. Still we worry that we would have ignored your signs, surrendered to fear, and hidden our face from the majesty of your child. We want to imagine ourselves on this Christmas day: faithful servants worshiping Christ without hesitation or failure. Still we know that we are quick to turn away from your good news, ignore the power of your story, and surrender to the commercial Christmas of our world. Forgive us, Lord, and wrap us in your peace. Pull us into the life of your story, and empower us to find Christ anew in this world. Amen.
*ASSURANCE OF PARDON
*SONG OF PRAISE: *"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come to Thee, O Israel"*

THE PROCLAIMING

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-14   Pew Bible page 58
         Jesus is born in Bethlehem; angels tell shepherds the good news
*HYMN: #265 (CELEBRATION Hymnal) *"The First Noel"*
SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Titus 2:11-14   Pew Bible page 215
                    Teachings on Right Living
MEDITATION – *Living in the Light*   David Norton, CRE

*HYMN: #270 (CELEBRATION Hymnal) *"Joy to the World"*
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *"The Apostles' Creed"* (Traditional) Inside back cover of Hymnals

THE RESPONDING

OFFERTORY
*SONG OF DEDICATION: *"Doxology"*
   "Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen."
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
   The Invitation
   The Great Thanksgiving
   The Prayers of the People - **The Lord's Prayer**
   The Words of Institution
   The Communion of the People
         Please note that Communion will be by intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) and that the elements we serve are gluten-free
   Thanksgiving after the Supper - **O Christ, our only Savior, so live within us that we may go from here with the light of hope in our eyes, and the fire of inspiration on our lips, your Word on our tongues, and your love in our hearts. Amen.**

THE SENDING

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING: Hymn #253 (CELEBRATION Hymnal)
 "Silent Night, Holy Night" (Please hold the candle vertically to give the light. Hold the candle horizontally to receive the light. You may say *"The light of Christ be with you"* as you pass the light. Repeat hymn until everyone's candle has been lit.)
   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! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."
   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.
BENEDICTION
   After all have partaken of the Communion elements and the Benediction has been pronounced, please extinguish your candles and depart from the Sanctuary in silence to await the Nativity of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.