

Covenant Presbyterian Church (USA)  
230 East Jefferson Street  
Butler, Pennsylvania

## A Service of Lessons and Carols with The Sacrament of Holy Communion

December 24, 2007

7:00 p.m. Prelude  
7:30 p.m. Worship

“For unto us a Child is born,  
unto us a Son is given.”

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson  
*Pastor*

Beverly Antis  
*Choir Director/Organist*

### THE PRELUDE OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

✠ *Veni Emmanuel* RECORDED c. 12<sup>th</sup> Century

✠ *The Huron Carol* VOCAL SOLO  
Father Jean de Brébeuf

✠ *Cradle Song* ORGAN Robert Lau

✠ *Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?* Robert Lau  
Arr. Lars Morrison  
CELLO AND GUITAR

✠ *Bring A Torch, Jeannette, Isabella* ORGAN Robert Lau

✠ Noël X “*Grand Jesus naquit à Noël*”  
Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier  
BRASS QUARTET AND ORGAN

✠ *O Holy Night* TRUMPET AND ORGAN Adolphe Adam

✠ *Away in a Manger* ORGAN Robert Lau

### THE PROCESSIONAL INTROIT

**Hymn #49** *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

¶ **The congregation, seated, shall join in singing verses 3 and 4**

SOLO

1. *Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.*

CHOIR

2. *He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.*

CONGREGATION & CHOIR

3. **Jesus is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.**

CONGREGATION & CHOIR

4. **And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.**

¶ PLEASE STAND, ALL WHO ARE ABLE

**THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**\*HYMN #41**      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*      ADESTE FIDELES  
arr. John Ferguson and David Willcocks

**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!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**THE BIDDING PRAYER**

¶ PLEASE REMAIN STANDING

PASTOR:

Beloved in Christ: be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger; let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this House of Worship glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of this whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and harmony within the Church Christ came to build, and also for justice and righteousness to prevail where'er the curse of evil may be found.

And because, of all things, this would rejoice God's heart most completely, let us now remember in Jesus' name the poor and the helpless; the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind; those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:



Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sung 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.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

**THE THIRD LESSON : Isaiah 11: 1-3a, 4a, 6-8**

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*  
John Reefer, Reader

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 16<sup>th</sup> C. German**

Brass in Canon

**THE FOURTH LESSON : Luke 1: 26-38**

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.*  
Ann Morrison, Reader

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Ave, Ave, the Angel Sang**

RECORDER AND ORGAN

Robert Lau

**THE FIFTH LESSON : Matthew 1: 18-23**

*St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*  
Kathy Martynuska, Reader

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Joseph, Dearest, Joseph Mine*

Ehrhard Bodenschatz  
arr. Norman Greyson

[German Text]

*Joseph lieber, Joseph mein, Helf mir wiegen mein Kindelein,  
Hilf es wiegen and singen fein dem Kindelein,  
der Jungfrau Sohn, Maria.  
Eia, Eia, Schlafe, liebes Kindelein,*

*Will es wiegen die ganze Nacht, bis der Morgenstern erwacht,  
Gott der wird dein Löhner sein in Himmelreich,  
der Jungfrau Sohn, Maria.*

[English Translation]

*Joseph dearest, Joseph mine,  
Help me cradle my Child divine,  
Sing unto Him sweet lullaby,  
The lovely Child, the infant son of Mary.  
Eia, Eia, Slumber, holy Child divine.*

*May He sleep through the whole long night,  
Till the sun shall rise in might,  
Heavenly angels from on high will watch o'er Him,  
The infant Son of Mary.*

**THE SIXTH LESSON : Luke 2: 1, 3-7**

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*  
Orville Nicholas, Reader

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN #44**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

**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.**

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.

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.

## THE SEVENTH LESSON : Luke 2: 8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

Mary Lee Marten, Reader

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM As I Went to Bethlehem Robert Lau

*As I went to Bethlehem, when the dawn was gray,  
there I saw some shepherd men on their homeward way.  
"Tell me now, good shepherd men, did you see a light  
moving high in heav'n above, shining clear and bright?"  
"When on yonder hill we stood, watching o'er our sheep,  
unto us the angels spoke while the earth did sleep.  
'Glory be to God' they sang, 'and on earth be joy,  
unto you is born this day Christ the Holy boy.'"  
Forth we went to Bethlehem, for to see the child.  
There he lay in Mary's arms, Jesus, meek and mild.  
And there we did rejoice with heart and soul and voice,  
Oh, what praises we did sing, this our gift to Christ, the King.  
Then before the manger bed we did kneel and pray,  
thanking God for His dear Son born to us this day.  
"Glory be to God," we sang, "and on earth be joy."  
For to us is born this day Christ, the Holy boy.*

## THE EIGHTH LESSON : Matthew 2: 1-11

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

Larry Morrison, Reader

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM Falan-Tidings Donald Pearson

*Out of the orient crystal skies a blazing star did shine,  
Showing the place where poorly lies a blessed babe divine,  
Born of a maid of royal blood whom angels called by name,  
A sacred rose which once did bud by grace of heav'nly fame.  
This shining star three kings did guide e'en from the farthest East,  
To Bethlehem where it betide this blessed babe did rest.  
in a humble manger poor, Betwixt an ox and ass,  
Whom these three kings did all adore as God's high pleasure was.*

*The wise bring learning, the rich may bring their wealth:*

*and some may bring their greatness,*

*and some bring strength and health,*

*We too would bring our treasures to offer to the king.*

*We have no wealth or learning; What shall we pilgrims bring?*

*We'll bring him hearts that love him, We'll bring him thankful praise,  
and mortals daily striving to walk in holy ways:*

*And these shall be the treasures we offer to the king,*

*and these are gifts that even, the humbles soul may bring.*

## THE ACCLAMATION

## THE CHORAL RESPONSE Gloria, Gloria Jacques Berthier

*Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,*

*Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

¶ THE CONGREGATION SHALL STAND

FOR THE READING OF THE NINTH LESSON & THE HYMN





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.

## THE PASTORAL PRAYER OF BLESSING

### THE TIME OF SILENCE

¶ PLEASE STAND, ALL WHO ARE ABLE

### \*THE BENEDICTION

### \*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

<i>Hodie</i>	<i>Christus Natus Est</i>	Benjamin Britten
[Latin Text]	[English Translation]	
<i>Hodie</i>	<i>Christus natus est:</i>	<i>Today Christ is born:</i>
<i>hodie</i>	<i>Salvator apparuit:</i>	<i>today the Savior appears:</i>
<i>hodie in terra</i>	<i>canunt angeli:</i>	<i>today the angels sing on earth:</i>
<i>laetantur</i>	<i>archangeli:</i>	<i>the archangels rejoice:</i>
<i>hodie exultant</i>	<i>justi dicentes</i>	<i>today the righteous exult, saying:</i>
<i>gloria in excelsis</i>	<i>Deo. Alleluia!</i>	<i>glory to God in the highest.</i>

### \*THE RITUAL OF CHRISTMAS GREETING

#### THE POSTLUDE

*Ding, Dong! Merrily on High*  
French Carol  
Arr. K. Lee Scott

BRASS SEXTET

\* \* \* \* \*

*We thank all the musicians who contributed to this evening's service:*

Larry Morrison, Recorder and Guitar  
Sarah Jane Morrison, Cello  
Aaron Sattely and Will Guess, Trumpet  
Matt Altdorfer and Steve Rodgers, Trombone  
Kevin Maurer and Lee Yarnell, Trombone

### *Lighting the Christ candle this Christmas Eve:*

Members of the Reefer Family: John & Mary Reefer, Karen & Matt DeLorenzo, Jason Reefer, Beth Reefer.

### *The Acolytes for this evening:*

Mark Hitchcock and Shayne Hoehn.

### *The Chancel Choir*

**Soprano:** Leanne Heaton, Nancy Moorhead, Katie Seybert

**Alto:** Nancy Hitchcock, Sarah Morrison  
Pam Patterson, Darla Peterson,  
Mary Reefer

**Bass:** Fred Curran, Robert Hogg

**Choir Director / Organist:** Beverly Antis

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### *Welcome! Peace and Joy to You!*

May your hearts be opened to receive our Lord anew, and may He abide with you always. Guests are invited to leave a record of their attendance by completing a pew card and placing it in the offering plate. Those who desire information about Covenant Church or opportunities for worship and study are asked to indicate their interest on the pew card, or call the church office at (724) 287-7731.

Our Festival of Lessons and Carols is adapted from the traditional service celebrated each Christmas Eve since 1918 at the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, England. Though many revisions of the Order of Service have been made over time, since 1919 the service has always begun with the hymn *Once In Royal David's City*. The heart of the King's College service---the lessons and prayers---has remained virtually unchanged over the years. Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the main focus is the proclamation of the loving purposes of God, seen through the windows of Word and Sacrament.

The true beauty of Christmas is centered in the one whose birth we celebrate tonight: "Immanuel," God made flesh to dwell among us. Do you desire Christ to dwell more powerfully in your life? We welcome those who seek, who have questions or doubts... who desire a more joyous, abundant life. Our pastor would be pleased to speak with you. Call (724) 287-7731.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MEMORIALS

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2007

*Betty Anderson* in memory of my parents, Neil & Dina Vanderzell;  
and in memory of John Edward Bass

*The Butler Children* in memory of their father, Eddie Butler

*The Butler Grandchildren* in memory of their grandfather, Eddie  
Butler

*Joe & Eileen Davidson* in memory of Loved Ones

*Enid & Lester Dummire* in honor of Our Beloved Family

*Margaret Emrick* in memory of My Father and My Sister

*Arthur Forbes, Jr.* in memory of my parents, Arthur H. & Jean W.  
Forbes

*Marcia Forbes* in memory of my parents, Helen & Raymond Lang

*Pat Foringer* in memory of Chad Foringer; and in honor of My  
Wonderful Family

*Mindy Gall* in memory of My Parents and My Brother; and in honor  
of my children Taylor and Peter

*Robert Heaton and Leanne Heaton* in memory of Marion Heaton

*Nancy Hitchcock, Mark Hitchcock, Amy (Voelker) Arnold and Shayne  
Hoehn* in memory of our grandfather, Norman Voelker and our  
grandmother, Augusta Voelker

*Nancy Hitchcock and Mark Hitchcock* in memory of Larry & Dorothy  
Hitchcock

*Donna Hobaugh* in memory of Richie B. Hobaugh and Richard W.  
Hobaugh

*Paul Hoffman* in memory of Mary Schweppe Hoffman

*Robert Hogg* in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Hogg

*John & Martha Keasey* in honor of our son, David and  
granddaughters, Amanda and Jennifer

*Romaine MacDonald* in memory of My Parents and My Sister  
(OVER)

*Vivas Macoskey and Family* in memory of Dr. Robert A. Macoskey  
*Bob & Mary Lee Marten* in memory of Ron Ramsey, Ethel & Paul  
Stover, Dr. & Mrs. E. A. Marten; and in honor of Our Children  
*Larry & Ann Morrison* in honor of Benjamin Morrison and Sarah  
Jane Morrison

*Edna & Orville Nicholas* in memory of Our Parents and Amy Laidlaw  
Geist

*Pam Patterson* in honor of Cole and Ryan Patterson

*Patterson Grandchildren* in honor of Bob and Joan Moore

*Linda Peters & Family* in memory of Sam Peters and Loved Ones;  
and in honor of the Covenant Church Family

*Sue Ellen Reese and Marilyn & Greg Ruff* in memory of Harold,  
Louise, and Carol Kurtz

*Bryan & Tonya Reese, Michael & Elizabeth Reese, Randy & Jeffrey  
Ruff* in memory of Harold and Louise Kurtz

*Chuck & Jeanne Schlicht* in memory of Loved Ones

*Vernon Swanson, Jim, Karen & Family* in memory of Betty Jane

Swanson, who loved the Lord, loved music and loved Christmas  
*Phyllis Thoma* in honor of My Chappell and Thoma Families; and in  
honor of Beverly Antis and Our Covenant Choir

*Doug VanDeusen* in honor of My Loved Ones

*Ellie Walchesky* in memory of Ray Walchesky

*Lowell & Janie Wetzel* in memory of Our Parents; and in honor of our  
children: Wanda, Steven & Diane, Kendra & Brian; and in honor  
of our grandchildren: Sean, Ryan & Scott Wetzel and Baleigh,  
Brice, Kyleigh & Kaiden Rommel

*Mary Ann Zeigler* in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. McGuirk

**First Sunday of Advent Poinsettias** were given by Helen Ferguson  
in honor of the Covenant Choir and Beverly Antis, Choir Director.

**The Decorations:** Thank you to the Fellowship & Outreach  
Committee and members of the congregation who participated in the  
'*Hanging of the Greens*' to decorate the church so beautifully for this  
season.