

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)  
14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193  
703.670.7834 fupcdc.org LIKE us on Facebook Find us on Instagram @ fupcdc



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**  
**December 24, 2023**  
**7:30 PM**

**The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor**  
[Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org](mailto:Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org)  
828.448.8914

**WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME****PRELUDE***O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Dr. Nadia Carmichael, Pianist

Arr. Glenda Austin

**CHRISTMAS WELCOME**

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

**BELLS***The three tolls call us to worship and symbolize our belief in the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In quiet reverence, we prepare for worship.***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The impossible is about to happen in a stable. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined!**

This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath, for God was doing the most unbelievable and dangerous thing.

**This is the evening when God embraced humanity from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among all people!**

**OPENING HYMN***O Come, All Ye Faithful*

133

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

The Hughes Family

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

Prayer

**We have been waiting for this night, Loving God. We have prepared ourselves for this special time. On this Christmas Eve, let us live as those who let hope, peace, joy, and love reign in our lives. As the candles burn brightly and light our path, let us live as those who have Christ's light burning inside us today and everyday. Amen.**

**RESPONSE***Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child*

126

Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;  
new life, new hope the child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing:

"Glory, glory, glory!"

Let the heavens ring. (Repeat)

 **CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

O God of love, you have brought us together tonight and blessed us with your very self. Open our eyes to the light of Christ which glows in the darkness of a world engulfed in apathy, pain, and loss; a world separated from you. Speak to us now that we may hear the good news of your salvation. Bring us into the wonder of your presence. Fill us with that light and carry it out with us into our lives. Amen.

 **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

*Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.*

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

**HYMN**

*Away in a Manger*

**115**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God of light, you have revealed your very self to us in your son Jesus Christ, your one Word made flesh, who lived among us, full of grace and truth. Open us to your revelation once again, that in the words of your holy scripture we might know your presence and follow in your light always.

**Amen.**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7 NRSV

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Noel Fantasy*  
FUPCDC Chancel Choir

*Arr. Waggoner*

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 2:8-20 NRSV

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

God Slips In

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

## **INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

*If you would like to speak with someone about becoming a Christian, about church membership, or about a special prayer need, please speak with Pastor Adam or someone at the Welcome Table right outside the sanctuary. For those worshipping online, please email Pastor Adam at [adam.bowling@fupcdc.org](mailto:adam.bowling@fupcdc.org). Know that ALL are welcome in this place!*

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**



**HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

121

## **SERVICE OF GIVING**

*(Unless designated, tonight’s offering is a Christmas Joy Gift and is not part of regular pledged giving. If your offering is for the church budget, please designate that it is part of your pledge or is a gift to the church on your envelope or check.)*

Music at the Offering

*What Child is This?*

Arr. Sharon Aaronson

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

 **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh.

**Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**Instructions:** *Please come by way of the center aisle when an usher indicates to receive communion. All the bread is gluten free. Please partake of the elements when you receive them, and dispose of your cups in the baskets provided. You may return to your seats by way of the outside aisles. If you cannot come forward please notify an usher, and a server will bring communion to you in your row. Know that all are welcome to the Table of the Lord.*

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Sung)*

Albert Hay Malotte

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

 **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

Music during Communion

*The First Nowell*

147

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have

shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

### SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Pastor will light the choir's candles with the flame from the Christ candle. Choir members in turn give light to the worshipers nearest the aisle, who will pass it on to the others in that row. Please tip the UNLIT candle toward the LIT candle to avoid spilling hot wax.

**HYMN**                      *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (verse 3 a cappella)                      **122**

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES



**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**      *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*                      **136**



**POSTLUDE**                      *Christmas Celebration Medley*                      Arr. Glenda Austin



*Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

**About Everett Patterson:** Everett was born and raised in New Orleans, LA and went to college at Columbia University in New York City. He originally moved to the Pacific Northwest to get involved in organic agriculture, but comics got a hold of him, and he ended up interning at Periscope Studio in Portland. He self-published his first graphic novel in 2011, and worked as an assistant editor at Dark Horse Comics from 2012 to 2015. He's currently illustrating for the educational video series The Bible Project. "I'm a member of Door of Hope, a rad church in northeast Portland, and a follower of Jesus Christ, for whose honor all my comics are drawn . . . some retroactively." His artwork is used with permission for our service this evening.

#### When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled by Howard Thurman, The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their  
flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.

#### Have a very Merry Christmas!

*We invite you to join us for worship  
on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.  
10:00 AM - one worship service*

# *Poinsettias were given to the Glory of God . . .*



*Martin Andrews, in memory of Mark Levy and Jennifer Lewis*  
*Bob and Sandy Chamberlin, in memory of our parents,*  
*Joe and Ruth Chamberlin and Ed and Georgie Stratton*  
*Bob and Sandy Chamberlin, in honor of*  
*our daughters, Jill, Courtney, Katie, and Becky*  
*Gail Cobb and Family, in memory of Norman Cobb*  
*Pam Cox, in loving memory of Lisa Chrzan*  
*The Elliott Family, in memory of Tom Elliott Sr. and Mark Elliott*  
*Pamela Emert, in memory of Craig Emert*  
*Bruce and Betsy Gilbert, in memory of our parents*  
*Peter and Elizabeth Glycer, in memory of Mike Glose*  
*Doug and Sandy Godfrey, in memory of our parents*  
*Curt and Claire Hoagland, in memory of*  
*Nancy Hoagland, Donna Davis, and Trevor Hipkin*  
*Curt and Claire Hoagland, in honor of Adam and Erin Bowling*  
*Joanne and Rodney Willis, in memory of*  
*Josephine and Robert Bradshaw*  
*Joanne and Rodney Willis, in honor of*  
*Audrev Willis and John Scott*

*Your poinsettias may be picked up after the 7:30 PM worship service tonight. Thank you!*

**WHEN LEAVING THE PARKING LOT . . .** for safety, please turn right when exiting the church parking lot and make a U-turn at the traffic light instead of turning left onto Minnieville Road.

<b>First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, Woodbridge, VA</b>	
Ministers.....	People of the Church
Pastor.....	Rev. Adam C. Bowling
Parish Assistant.....	Pastor Michael Slayter
Nursery Supervisor.....	Taylor Woods
Children’s Ministry Director .....	Kim Brown
Youth Director.....	Briana Stewart
Chancel Choir Director.....	Dana Van Slyke
Contemporary Worship Leader.....	Rachel Bradley
Pianist/Organist.....	Dr. Nadia Carmichael
Sexton.....	Homer Detrich
Office Manager.....	Kim Parker



\*\*\*\*\*  
 Church Office Hours: 10AM -2:30PM, weekdays, 703-670-7834  
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DAVE'S CITY MOTEL

NO VACANCY

FREE HBO  
NEW  
MAN GER

STARR  
BEVER

Good News

BEER  
J...

SAVE  
M...

BEST  
PROD  
TIPAS

SMOKE  
WEISMAN  
cigarettes

Phone

ATM

BRIAN

Coke  
AT

OUT OF  
ORDER

Word

STARR

STARR  
TIPAS  
GOOD  
NEWS

