



SENECA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF LESSONS, CAROLS, CANDLES, AND COMMUNION
CHRISTMAS EVE 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King, ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Lord of all glory, God of Bethlehem's Babe, if we are too distant from you,

ALL: Grant us such wisdom that we may lift up our eyes to see that star which shines from the darkest skies.

One: God of all yesterdays, todays, and tomorrows, send us forth on that pilgrimage of the soul that in the fullness of time we may stand where the highest peace is known in the humblest place.

All: Teach us how to make precious gifts out of whatever serves the needs of your children, and if we are wise, help us to kneel humbly in wonder of the mystery of your redeeming grace.

OPENING CAROL No. 113

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

UNISON PRAYER

God most high and most near, open the deep places of our hearts so that our joy may not be selfishly shallow in this hour of Christ's coming. With knowledge of this world's sorrow, may we be uplifted and transformed by the timeless grace of his spirit. Deliver us from nit-picking unbelief. Set us free from doubt. Through the flight of our minds to the manger, may the aspirations of our hearts and spirits be met in the simple joy of Christmas. May the unearned blessing of your home with us in Jesus Christ stir our hearts to sing your praise. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

NOEL

FIRST LESSON

LUKE 1:26-31
THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

CAROL No. 133

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

SECOND LESSON

LUKE 2:1-7
THE BIRTH OF JESUS

CAROL No. 115

AWAY IN A MANGER

THIRD LESSON

LUKE 2:8-12
THE SHEPHERDS' ANGELIC VISITATION

SPECIAL MUSIC

O HOLY NIGHT

FOURTH LESSON

LUKE 2:13-17
THE ANGEL AND HEAVENLY HOST PRAISE GOD

CAROL No. 143

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

FIFTH LESSON: MATTHEW 2:1-2; 7-8
KING HEROD'S INQUIRY

CAROL NO. 151 *WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE*

SIXTH LESSON MATTHEW 2:9-11
THE WISE MEN FOLLOW THE STAR TO THE CHRIST CHILD

CAROL NO. 147 *THE FIRST NOWELL*

HOMILY "FROM ABOVE" DR. HARTMAN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table
The Words of Institution
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Breaking of the Bread
The Sharing of God's Gifts of Bread, Cup, and light

THE LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

SEVENTH LESSON: JOHN 1: 6-13
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD HAS COME

CAROL NO. 122 *SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT*

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

CAROL No. 134 *JOY TO THE WORLD*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please stand if able.

✠ WELCOME ✠

WELCOME to this service of lessons, carols, candles, and Holy Communion. We are glad that you are present with us to worship on this holy evening. If you are worshipping with us a member of the extended Seneca Presbyterian Church family or as a member of the greater Seneca community, we are glad that you are here. You have found a welcoming congregation with a heart for one another and a heart for our community.

OFFERING - As we remember and give thanks to God for the gift of God's Son to the world, you will have an opportunity to give during this service. The entire offering has been designated for the Oconee United Ministries. OUM is a ministry of six Presbyterian and two Methodist churches in Oconee County. Funds are received and then distributed to those facing emergency situations related to housing, utilities, and medical/dental expenses. OUM has been serving the citizens of Oconee County since October 1981.

COMMUNION will be served as part of this service.

If anyone wishes to receive the bread, cup, and candle in their seats, a team is available to serve you. They will watch for those without a candle, but you may also signal them with a raised hand.

Please keep candles lit through the singing of *Joy to the World*.

PLEASE JOIN US AGAIN

We gather for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and Worship at 10:00 a.m. We welcome you to these services. You can email the church at sencasprezchurch@gmail.com. Learn more about us at: www.sprez.org

Pastor: Dr. John Hartman

Director of Music: Rosalie Hovencamp

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