



*God in the Midst
Of Joy*

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24, 2023 ▪ 7:00 pm

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PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, who made this most hallowed night
resplendent with the glory of the true light;
grant that we who have known the mysteries of that light on earth
may enter into the fullness of his joys in heaven. Amen.

PRELUDE “Dona Nobis Pacem” String Ensemble

INTROIT “Tidings of Comfort and Joy” Chancel Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP “Were You There on That Christmas Night?” Christmas Choir
– Natalie Sleeth

WELCOME & GREETING Neil Trainer

SONG OF ADORATION “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (#41, vv. 1–3) Congregation

CHORAL ANTHEM “Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy” (Ethiopian Carol) Medhane-Alem Choir

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Luke 2:1–14 NLT Eric and Janet Peterson

SONGS OF GLORY “Angels from the Realms of Glory” Congregation
“Angels We Have Heard on High”
“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Emily Mitchell

CHRISTMAS OFFERING “Glory to God” – Lloyd Larson Christmas Choir

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 1:1-5 MSG Eric Peterson

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“God in the Midst of Joy”

Neil Trainer

CANDLE LIGHTING

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

1. 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.
2. Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav’nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.
3. 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.
4. 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!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

- One: Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst.
May his incarnation fill our hearts with joy and peace.
- All: **O Lord, give us peace.**
- One: Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.
May his birth among us renew our hope.
- All: **O Lord, give us hope.**
- One: Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing.
- All: **O Lord, give us joy.**
- One: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
- All: **Amen.**

SONG OF JOY

“Joy to the World!”

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World!” – arr. Mark Hayes

Laurel Underwood

Tonight's Music

With gratitude to the Calvin Christmas Choir, the Chancel Bell Choir, the singers from Medhane-Alem Evangelical Church, and the String Ensemble!

Last Worship Service of 2023

// Sunday, December 31 at 10 am
in the Sanctuary

Like Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve also falls on a Sunday this year. Calvin will be open for our 10 am Worship Service as usual. We hope to see you!

Church Office Closed for the Holidays

// Our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season for you and yours!

Staff will be on holiday, vacation, or working remotely from Monday, December 25th through Monday, January 1st. The church office will be closed during this time.

(Those needing to make special arrangements for year-end donations may contact Kirsty via email.)

Messy Church

// Join us January 3rd for this new worshipping community

You are warmly invited to come to Messy Church on the first Wednesday of 2024 — January 3rd from 5:30 to 7 pm in the Activity Center. The values of Messy Church are:

- all ages,
- Christ-centered,
- hospitality,
- creativity, and
- celebration.

A simple supper is included. This is a great service to which you can invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors.

The biblical story this month will be about Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and Jesus. We need help collecting supplies — one of the crafts will be a DIY sand timer (to remember that God's timing is not our timing), and we need empty glass spice bottles (3.75 x 1.5 inches) with a metal lid. Please also save any boxes you collect over the holidays: we need bigger boxes for building the tomb where Lazarus was buried and smaller boxes for taking crafts home. You can give Pastor Emily any of these items between now and December 31.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, 24 December 2023



18826 Third Ave NW, Shoreline, WA 98177
206-542-6181 • info@calvincpc.org