

Let us love and sing and wonder



Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 16, 2018
Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

Welcome to our church!

We're glad you're here! We hope you experience the warmth and welcome of Christ our Savior in this community.



If this is your first time visiting, please fill out a **Visitor's Card** (located in the pew in front of you) and place it in the offering basket later in the service. We would love to meet you and help you get connected.



If you would like to speak to someone who can answer any questions you may have about our church, please visit the **Welcome Desk**, which will be on your left after you exit the Sanctuary.



The Window Story

You may have noticed that each window contains decorations, but you may not have realized that they all tell a story! If you'd like to know the Window Story, you can find a **printed guide on the Nativity Table in the Narthex**.

Also, we would love for your children to write a prayer request on one of the stars found on the Nativity Table and place it on the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Cantata

December 16, 2018 at 9:00 and 11:15AM

Prelude *Alleluia, Alleluia* (Byrd/Wise)

Horizon Brass

Call to Worship from Isaiah 25 and Psalm 77:11-15

MINISTER: O Lord, you are my God, I will exalt you, I will praise your name,

PEOPLE: For you have done wonderful things.

MINISTER: Your plans are formed of old, faithful and sure.

PEOPLE: I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

MINISTER: I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.

PEOPLE: You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples.

MINISTER: Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him that he might save us.

PEOPLE: Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

MINISTER: Come, let us love and sing and wonder!

PEOPLE: Come, let us adore him!

Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #208

Invocation and Welcome

THE FIRST LESSON *Wonder at God's sovereign plan throughout time.*

Scripture Reading Luke 1:68-75

Read by Verne Kern, a representative of the Mercy Ministry

- 68**“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
69and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
70as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
71that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
72to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
73the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
74that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
75in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Choir *Christmas Hymn* (Grant/Smith, arr. Fettke/Grassi/Mauldin)

Praise to God whose love was shown, who sent His Son to earth. Jesus left His rightful throne, became a man by birth. The virgin's baby Son, all creation praise Him God incarnate, come, come adore Him. Still a higher call had He, deliverance from our sins, Come to set all people free from Satan's hold within. For by the sin of man we fell; by the Son of God He crushed the pow'r of hell, death we fear no more! Now we stand with strength, with pow'r, the sons of God on earth. Faithful to the final hour, Christ's righteousness our worth. And now all praise be giv'n for the Babe, the Son, the Savior King is ris'n, Christ is Lord indeed. Praise to God whose love was shown. Praise to our God!

THE SECOND LESSON

Wonder at our great need for a Savior.

Scripture Reading Genesis 3:8-19

Read by Julia Meador, a representative of the Women's Ministry

8And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9**But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" **10**And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." **11**He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" **12**The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." **13**Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

15I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

16To the woman he said,
"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you."

17And to Adam he said,
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree

of which I commanded you,
 ‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
 in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your face
 you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
 for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return.”

Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, and give them victory o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, Thou Lord of Might, who to Thy tribes, on Sinai’s height
In ancient time didst give the Law, in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Confession of God’s People

UNISON:

Heavenly Father, in so many ways we enter this season of Advent with hearts blind to the wonder of your sovereign plan. We fix our hearts and minds on the festive and fleeting when your perfect gift is before us. Open our eyes to the miracle of your work, our desperate need for a Savior, hope for redemption, Jesus the willing rescuer, and your great mercy. Forgive our unbelief, forgive our quickness to forget, forgive our numbness to this glorious story, give us hearts that sing with love and wonder. Amen.

- Silent Prayers of Confession -

Repentance of God's People

MINISTER:

Has the God of Heaven sent his Son to redeem his people?

PEOPLE:

He has.

MINISTER:

Will you repent of your indifference and meditate
on the miracle of his great love this advent season?

PEOPLE:

We will.

Assurance of God's Pardon from Heidelberg #34 and 1 Peter 1:18-19

MINISTER:

Our Lord, not with gold or silver, but with his precious blood has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil, and has bought us, body and soul, to be his very own.

THE THIRD LESSON

Wonder at the hope of redemption for a fallen world.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Eddie Tanous, a representative of the choir

- 2**The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
- 3**You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- 4**For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 5**For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Offertory Prayer

Offertory *For Unto Us a Child is Born* (from *The Messiah*, G.F. Handel)

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

THE FOURTH LESSON *Wonder at God's great love.*

Scripture Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20 (Pew Bible p. 790)

Homily Rev. Robert Cunningham, Senior Minister

“The Wonders of His Love”

Hymn *Good Christians All, Rejoice* (arr. Fettke/Grassi)

CHOIR:

Rejoice! Sing and rejoice!

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and He is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

CHOIR & CONGREGATION:

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

CHOIR:

Rejoice! Sing and rejoice!



THE FIFTH LESSON

Wonder at Jesus, the willing sacrifice.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 53:1-7 and Philippians 2:5-11

Read by Sarah Randle (9:00) and Elle Thompson (11:15), representatives of the Youth Ministry

- 53:1** Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please note:

We offer both wine and grape juice in Holy Communion: wine is in the outer ring of cups, and the grape juice is in the inner rings of cups. Also, gluten-free bread is offered at the center table.

Children's Blessing:

Children (of any age) who have not professed faith in Christ are encouraged to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing from the pastor or officer.

Words of Institution

MINISTER:

Let us together proclaim the hope of the Church:

UNISON:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ shall come again!

MINISTER:

I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, he took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Holy Communion *Just Beyond the Manger* (by Joseph Martin)

Just beyond the manger, I hear no lullabies, I see no golden hay, I feel no starlight. Just beyond the manger, I hear the hammer fall, I see a rugged cross, I feel the chill of night just beyond the manger. Just beyond the manger, I see no swaddling clothes, I hear no angels sing, I feel no candle glow. Just beyond the manger, I see a lonely hill, the Savior crying still, I hear the thunder roll just beyond the manger. Forgive us Lord, and grant us eyes to see in ev'ry Christmas, Calvary; implant it in our hearts. Help us recall 'mid trees of red and gold, on another tree raised long ago we hung God's brightest star. Just beyond the manger, I hear no lullabies, just beyond the manger."

THE SIXTH LESSON

Wonder at the glory of His redeeming grace.

Scripture Reading John 1:1-5, 9-14

Read by Sherry Simmons, a representative of the Seniors Ministry

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was in the beginning with God. **3**All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. **4**In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

9The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10**He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11**He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12**But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13**who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **14**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn *A Celebration of Carols* (arr. Liebergen)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**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.**

**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.**

CHOIR: O come let us adore Him! Christ the Lord is born!

Benediction and Postlude *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (arr. Paul Manz)

Weekly Information

Last Week's Attendance: 934

Rapid Run: 750
Downtown: 184
Sunday School: 317

Today's Deacons on Duty:

Jim Guinn
Austin Willard

Giving Report: For more info, visit tcpca.org/give

November Actual Giving:	\$185,906	YTD Actual Giving (Oct-Nov):	\$316,983
November Giving Goal:	\$146,809	YTD Actual Expenses (Oct-Nov):	\$319,417
Difference:	\$39,097	Difference:	-\$2,434

Calendar

Sunday, December 16

9:00 am, Christmas Cantata
10:20 am, No Sunday School
11:15am, Christmas Cantata
2:00pm, Lafayette Place Seniors Worship
5:00 pm, TCPC Downtown Worship

Monday, December 17

7:00 pm, Cub Scouts

Wednesday, December 19

6:30 am, Men's Bible Study
12:00pm, Men's Bible Study
6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 20

12:30 pm Access Prayer Group

Sunday, December 23

9:00 am, Worship of the Living God
10:20 am, No Sunday School
11:15am, Worship of the Living God
2:00pm, Lafayette Place Seniors Worship
5:00 pm, TCPC Downtown Worship

Monday, December 24

5:00 pm, Christmas Eve Service
(Nursery will not be open)

Future Events

Jan 6 - Congregational Meeting
(to vote on Downtown)
Jan 20 - Congregational Meeting
(normal annual meeting)

Choir

Suzanne Dovel, *Director*

Soprano

Malisa Anderson
Mary Donna Broz
Sally Cash
Esther Fleming
Jody Hicks
Francisca Hirschfeld
Anna Hogan
Robyn Lehnert
Sandra Marlowe
Mary Beth Moore
Tammy Provost
Esther Ratajeski
Whitley Schoop
Amy Thompson
Megan Wells
Anita Yenwongfai

Alto

Carrie Banta
Ruth Binkowski
Tricia Brown
Eileen Frisinger
Judy Greer
Sandi Guinn
Anita Haddock
Karen Iverson
Deb Jones
Monica Kent
Susan Lindemann
Robin Maddux
Jane Ritter
Janie Weatherford
Janet Whitley

Tenor

Dan Breeden
David Kent
Kent Ratajeski
David Sloan
Caleb Watkins
Ron Whitley

Bass

Greg Anderson
Wesley Anderson
Preston Hicks
Ken Iverson
John Lee
Ken Litrell
Wayne Marlowe
Michael Moore
Jeff Payne
Eddie Tanous
Will Weatherford

Musicians

Flute

Allison Gordon

Violin I

Sarah Glenn
Grace Doty

Violin II

Kathleen Crosmer
Rob Sivy
Jim Griffioen

Viola

Jonathan Crosmer
Reza Rahmati

Cello

Rebecca Price
Bonnie Griffioen

Percussion

Jim Corcoran
Eric Sokolowski

Organ

Jane Rutter

Piano

Deb Endean

HORIZON BRASS

Trumpet

Greg Wing
Deb Eastwood

Horn

L. Curtis Hammond

Trombone

Justin Croushore

Tuba

Stacy Baker

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

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Learn more about our church online at tcpca.org