

South Aiken Presbyterian Church
The Worship of God
Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service

December 24, 2008

11:00 P.M.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, & Concerns of the Church

Elder Paul Ebel

Preparation for the Word

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Chandler Family

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming.

The Christ candle is lit.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

People: those who lived in a land of deep darkness

Leader: on them light has shined.

(from Isaiah 9:2)

Prayer ***(Unison)***

O God, when we think of Christmas, we think of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy, and we celebrate with lights and music, with gifts and happy times. But most of all, we think of Jesus, born in a manger and growing up as our loving Savior. Help us to live the way Jesus teaches us so that we may understand the real meaning of Christmas, and share it with others in your world. In the name of Your Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, we ask our prayer. Amen.

***Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

41

Lessons and Carols

Prayer for Illumination

Paul Ebel

First Lesson -

Luke 1:26-38

Paul Ebel

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

44

Second Lesson -

Matthew 1:18-24

Kathy Hughes

Carol

“What Child Is This”

53

Third Lesson -

Luke 2:1-20

Mike Hughes

Carol

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

31

Fourth Lesson -

Matthew 2:1-11

Allison Kelly

Carol

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

66

Fifth Lesson -

Isaiah 9:2-7

Rev. Christopher Crotwell

Carol

“Joy to the World”

40

The Eucharist

*Communion Hymn

Away in a Manger

24

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving (see insert)

Words of Institution

The Communion – (by intinction)

Prayer after Communion (see insert)

Sending

*Litany of Christ’s Light

One: God of light, in whom there is no shadow, Your gifts to us are
from the very beginning of time.

*All: They began with creation, when Your Spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter,
and when Your Word brought forth light on the face of the earth*

One: They continued with our ancestors, like Sarah and Abraham, whom You blessed with a
child whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the
nations.

*All: At last, You sent Your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and
vulnerable, Who grew up to be the very light of light, full of grace and truth, revealing
Your glory on earth. We thank You, O God, that You have sent Jesus Christ to bring
life and immortality to light. Help us receive Your gift with joy and humility. Be born
among us, that we may give Christ’s love to the world, through the presence and power
of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

The Sharing of Christ’s Light

*(The Elders will come forward to light their candles.
The light will be shared from worshipper to worshipper.)*

*Candle Hymn

*Silent Night, Holy Night
(The lights will be dimmed at this time)*

60

*Benediction

*Postlude

Large print Hymnals are available in the Narthex along with Sound Amplification
Devices. If needed, please ask an Usher for assistance.

Our Purpose... "Opening Doors To Serve Christ "

WELCOME! On this joyous Christmas Eve, we reach out to all worshippers with welcoming hearts and hands. May Christ, who is the Light of the World, drive away all darkness from our minds and plant his peace within us.

POINSETTIAS Please pick up your purchased poinsettia(s) as you leave the Christmas Eve Service, whether it be the 5:30, 8:00, or 11:00 PM Service.

VOLUNTEERS FOR TONIGHT

Sound System Alan Riechman

Ushers Bob Purdy, Judy Gahm

Elders to Serve Communion Mike Hughes, Kathy Hughes

Musicians

Rebecca Sherard Winans, Guest Accompanist

Brittany Winans, Harpist