





The Setauket Presbyterian Church

“As active disciples of Jesus Christ, we celebrate and share the love of God among ourselves and with others.”

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2013

11:00 PM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We use this time to make the transition between “getting here” and “being here”.

Be aware of being together in silence with others. Feel the spirit of the community.

Prelude

Ring of the Steeple Bell

Call to Worship: The Christ Candle (from *Little Gidding* by T.S. Eliot)

...And all shall be well and
all manner of thing shall be well
when the tongues of flame are in-folded
into the crowned knot of fire
and the fire and the rose are one.

You have come, Lord Jesus. (after a brief silence, let us sing...)

* Hymn 48 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (a prayer of Howard Thurman)

Loving God, you draw over every day the restful veil of night: enfold us in your heavenly peace. Lift from our hands our cares and tasks, and all through the night bear in your bosom the weight of our burdens and sorrows, that in this night of wonder we may feed upon your love and power, for it was in the night that you gave to us your very self in Jesus Christ our Lord...

(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection) Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

* Gloria (from Hymn 23, *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEARING THE WORD

Sung Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 5, Verse 1 (PICARDY)

***Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand,
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.***

A Proclamation from the Prophets of the Bible Isaiah 63:7-9

Hymn (insert) *Of The Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

The Christmas Story from the Bible Luke 2:8-20

A CHRISTMAS STORY FROM NOWADAYS

The Rev. Mary B. Speers

SHARING OUR LOVE THROUGH THE OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

(Please sign the Ritual of Friendship pads, noting fellow worshipers as it is returned.)

* **Doxology** (Hymn 56, verse 6 - *The First Nowell*)

***Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with his blood our life hath bought:
Nowell, Nowell...born is the King of Israel!***

* **Offertory Prayer**

Jesus our life, with the wise men of old we offer our gifts to you. May this Christmas be more than opening presents: this Christmas, may we open our hearts and minds to your Presence. Be born in us today: guide our faith from infancy to maturity; lead us beyond the concerns of the moment to those of eternity. Renew our spirits, and strengthen us to be your body in your world, through the indwelling power of your Holy Spirit. AMEN.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

* **Hymn 5** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (verses 2-4)

PICARDY

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, with Intercessions, and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Sharing the Bread and Cup (Please hold the elements until all are served.)

Sung Prayer after Communion

* **Hymn 44** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verses 3-4)

ST. LOUIS

* **SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

When you light your candle, hold the lit candle upright, and tip the unlit candle towards it

* **HYMN (insert)** *Silent Night*

STILLE NACHT

* **BENEDICTION**

...and let the whole church say, **Alleluia! Merry Christmas!**

POSTLUDE

Please extinguish your candle and put it the receptacles provided as you leave.

please rise in body or in spirit; **unison prayers are in bold.*

Large Print Bulletins, Bibles, Hymnals and Listening Devices are available; please ask a Deacon.

Have A Very Merry Christmas!!