



...Away in a Manger...



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 MANGER SERVICE

December 24, 2014

4:30 PM

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is based on the 5th Century "O Antiphons" which the church read at evening vespers during the Octave (last eight days) before Christmas, one each evening, Dec. 17-23, with Christmas Eve Vespers being the Christmas Vigil. We reinterpret this tradition for the four Sundays of Advent and our three services on Christmas Eve.

*all rise in body or in spirit; ***please sing only the first and last verses of all hymns***

GOD WAITS FOR THE WORLD

Christmas Music

Ringing of the Steeple Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Reading *Song for the Child* by Julia Cunningham

Rev. Mary B. Speers

Introit *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 1)

arr. John Weaver

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Carol & Dick Russell & Paget Witalis

First reader: O Emmanuel, God-with-Us, Savior of all people, the only joy of every human heart;

Second reader: This very night you have come, O Lord, to set us free.

All: You have come, Lord Jesus!

* Hymn 115 *Away in a Manger*

MUELLER

GOD PROMISES LIGHT TO THE WORLD

Prayer for Illumination

A Reading from **The Hebrew Prophets:** Isaiah 11:6-10

* **The Peace of Christ** (*please offer the Peace of Christ to your neighbors*)

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all:

And also with you.

GOD IS BORN IN A HUMAN BABY

The Christmas Story from The Bible, Part I: Luke 2:1-7

* Hymn 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

GOD APPEARS IN SURPRISING WAYS

The Christmas Story from The Bible, Part II: Luke 2:8-14

Reading: *How Did the Animals Know?* by Julia Cunningham

* **Hymn 119** *Hark, The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

GOD'S LOVE FILLS THE WORLD

Reading: *Had We Been There* by Ann Weems

Rev. Speers

Presentation of Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Carol *The Friendly Beasts*

Traditional

Children's Choir of Setauket Presbyterian Church

* **Doxology** (Hymn 147, 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!

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Jesus our brother, with the wise men of old we offer our gifts to you. Be born in us today: guide our faith from its birth to its fullest flower; lead us beyond the concerns of the moment to taste your hope and love for all creation, for we pray in your name...

The Lord's Prayer (*"debts;" hymnal p. 35*)

GOD'S LOVE IS REVEALED IN ALL CREATION

* **Thanksgiving and Prayers with Animals and Families**

Please come forward in family groups, with or without animals, for prayers. The pastors or an elder of the church will pray with each family group according to their needs.

* **Hymn 134** *Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

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

More Christmas Music

Poems from The Stable Rat by Julia Cunningham and Kneeling in Bethlehem by Ann Weems

Many thanks to our guest readers: Dr. Kerrie Cavallo, a local veterinarian and former SPC preschool mom; Susan Murphy is an elder in Setauket Presbyterian Church, "the Voice of WLIW," and a lover of animals.

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