

A lit red candle stands in the center-left of the frame, its flame glowing. To its right is a large, vibrant red poinsettia flower. In the foreground, an open book with white pages is visible, though the text is mostly illegible. The background is dark and filled with more poinsettia leaves and a small pinecone. The overall mood is warm and festive.

The
light
of the
world



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 MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

December 24, 2015

11:00 PM

You will always be welcome here. This is God's house and a happy church home.

Let us be your church family, for we are all beloved children of God.

*Join us regularly for Christian worship, nurture, and the doing of God's work in the world—
and all shall be well; all manner of thing shall be well.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Prelude *Silent Night*

arr. Barbara Kinyon

Hand Bell Choir

Ringing of the Steeple Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Mary's Lullaby*

arr. Barbara Kinyon

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

Leader 1: What we call the beginning is often the end
and to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.

(a leader lights the white Christ candle in the middle of the ring)

Leader 2: 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.

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

* **Hymn 108** *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

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...*(silent prayer)*

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** (refrain from Hymn 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*)
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

HEARING THE WORD

Sung Prayer for Illumination Hymn 121, Verse 3 (ST. LOUIS)

***How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.***

A Proclamation from the Prophets of the Bible Isaiah 9:2-7

Anthem *Away in a Manger*

arr. Barbara Kinyon

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

Offertory *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* arr. Barbara Kinyon
(Please sign the Ritual of Friendship pads, noting fellow worshipers as it is returned.)

* **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 Dedication**

Jesus our life, with the wise men of old we offer our gifts to you. 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

* **Communion Hymn 347** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (verses 1 & 2) 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 111** *From Heaven Above* (verse 4)

VOM HIMMEL HOCH

***Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Christ has given,
With angels sing the Savior's birth; a glad new year to all the earth!***

* SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*When you light your candle, hold the **lit** candle upright, and tip the **unlit** candle towards it.
When all candles are lit, we sing:*

* **Candlelight Carol (insert)**

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Verse 1 in English; then verse 1 in the original German; then verses 2, 3 & 4 in English

* **BENEDICTION**

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

Postlude

Please extinguish your candle and return it to the basket 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!!

Your Staff: Mary, Kate, Mikael, Karen, Marie, Jack, Dick,
Janet, Heather & Yvonne

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OURS IS AN OPEN COMMUNION. All Christians are invited and encouraged to join us as we celebrate this Sacrament today. This includes children whose parents deem it appropriate and who have instructed their children about the meaning of Communion. Please note that all the bread being served is gluten-free.

THE PARLOR is equipped with a sound system should you wish or need to take advantage of the space during worship. Please refrain from eating or drinking in our 200 year old Sanctuary.

WE WELCOME YOU TO OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP THIS EVENING. If you are searching for a church home in this community, we would be happy to speak with you about exploring what membership means at this church. Please feel free to take a "Welcome" booklet from the pews for information about SPC and its programs. If you would like to learn more about the programs of this church, please call the church office (941-4271) or indicate your interest on the Friendship Roster, or speak to a pastor.