

Gentle Shepherd Community Church

“Where Truth and Love Grow Together”

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2017 – 6:00pm

Rev. Scott Kohler, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Brad Little, Pastor Emeritus

Christy Boyd, Pianist

Greeters at Entrance: Mel Spires & David Crawford

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn # 179 Joy to the World

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 Shauna Stillman
The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. (NIV®)

Ministry of Music “O Holy Night” – Julie Grant, flute

Congregational Hymn #184 What Child is This

New Testament Reading: Luke 2:1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (NIV®)

Ministry of Music “Mary, Did You Know?” Nora Poirier

Message

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Hymn #186 Silent Night! Holy Night!

(verses 1 and 3 will be sung continuously during the candle-lighting)

Benediction

Thank you for choosing to spend part of your Christmas Eve with your friends at Gentle Shepherd. As we worship this evening, it is our prayer that God will bless you with a special sense of His presence and peace. May you and those you love experience fully both now and through the New Year – Emmanuel – “God with us.”

Weekly Announcements

Missions and Outreach Team Challenge: Our December Food Bank (Greener Village) challenge is to provide canned goods that can be part of a Christmas meal, such as canned vegetables, fruit and cranberries. Although needed in this season for Christmas food boxes, these items are always in demand at Greener Village. As usual, your donations can be left in the box in the foyer of the church.

Any prayer requests can be sent to Don Kerstens at djkerstens@gmail.com. If anyone would like their name included in the Prayer Chain, please contact Don.

Do you have announcements for the bulletin? Please send submissions to Connie Crawford at conniecrawford259@gmail.com by Tuesday morning.

Weekly Activities

Sunday, December 24	6:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Service
Friday, December 29	5:30 PM	Potluck at Sensingers'
Sunday, December 31	10:30 AM	Worship Service

Bulletin covers this evening have been donated by Connie Crawford and Barb MacMullin in loving memory of their parents, George and Meta Tyler and their brother, John Tyler.