



December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve

5:30pm

+ indicates you are invited to stand

Bold print indicates congregation in unison

LAS POSADAS

Greeting and Explanation of Las Posadas

Carla Pratt Keyes

Prelude *Esta noche Jesús ha nacido*

Traditional Peruvian, arr. Caldas/Brown

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: Light looked down and saw bleakness.

All: "I will go there," said light.

One: Peace looked down and saw conflict.

All: "I will go there," said peace.

One: Love looked down and saw hatred.

All: "I will go there," said love.

One: So the Eternal Light, the Prince of Peace, the God of Love
came down
and crept in
beside us.

+Hymn 137 *He Came Down*

Prayer

Scripture

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7

Now it happened in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered (for taxation). This was the first registration and occurred while Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be registered; each to their own towns. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth in to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, for he was from the house and heritage of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was betrothed and who was pregnant. So it was, that, while they were there, the time came for her to birth her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and swaddled him, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

THE JOURNEY

Children meet Carla and Andrew in the chancel.

Sung Response (sing seated)

tune: traditional Puerto Rican carol, words: Doug Brown

From a dis-tant home, some shel-ter they are seek - ing, They are tired and cold from
 long and pain - ful trek - king. Lis-ten! At the door, we hear an an-xious
 knock - ing. Should we let them in or send them a - way walk - ing.

ARRIVAL AT INN #1

Children: We are tired from our long journey. We are hungry and cold and far from home. Will you help us, please! May we stay with you?

Congregation: **Who has come to our door so late at night? Who asks for a place to stay? Sorry, but our inn is already full! We have no room for you tonight. Try someplace else!**

Sung Response

"Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me." - Rev. 3:20

ARRIVAL AT INN #2

Children: We are tired from our long journey. We are hungry and cold and far from home. Will you help us, please! May we stay with you?

Congregation: **Who has come to our door so late at night? Who asks for a place to stay? We only have room for family and friends here, and we don't know you. Leave us alone! Let us sleep!**

Sung Response

"He was in the world and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to his own people, but they did not accept him. But to all who received him and believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" - John 1:10-12

ARRIVAL AT INN #3

Children: We are tired from our long journey. We are hungry and cold and far from home.
Will you help us, please! May we stay with you?

**Congregation: Who has come to our door so late at night? Who asks for a place to stay?
This inn is expensive, and you don't look like you have enough money to pay!
Sorry, we can't help you.**

Sung Response

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." - Matthew 22:37, 39

ARRIVAL AT INN #4

Children: We are tired from our long journey. We are hungry and cold and far from home.
Will you help us, please! May we stay with you?

**Congregation: Enter, Mary and Joseph! Enter, holy pilgrims!
We will gladly give you lodging.
There is room in our home and room in our hearts.**

Children return to the chancel with Carla and Andrew.

Hymn 115 (sing seated) *Away in a Manger*

Scripture

Luke 2:8-20

Shepherds were in that region there staying in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Most High God came upon them, and the glory of the Living God shone around them, and they were greatly terrified. But the angel said to them, "Fear not. Look! For I proclaim to you good news of great joy for all the people: For there is born to you this day a Savior who is the Messiah, the Sovereign God, in the city of David. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby swaddled and lying in a manger." And immediately there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly array, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among peoples whom God favors!"

And it happened when the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to be, which the Sovereign God has made known to us." So they came hurrying and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Now seeing this, they made known what had been spoken to them about this child. And all who heard marveled at what was spoken by the shepherds to them. But Mary preserved all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was just as it had been told them.

+Hymn 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

+Prayer

One: God of small things, you came among us as a tiny and vulnerable baby,
open to all who met you.

**All: Teach us to care for the hurt and tender places in our hearts
and in the hearts of others;
help us to nurture your compassion in our world.**

One: We thank you for the love you have shared with us in Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. We pray for everyone who needs your light.
We pray for public leaders, community organizers, and police officers
who seek the common good.

All: Shine upon them and give them peace.

One: We pray for people who work in hospitals, hotels, restaurants, airports, and bus stations -
all who work and watch this night;

All: Shine upon them and give them peace.

One: We pray for people who are sick and dying, cold and hungry, lonely and grieving,
in prison, at war, and far from home.

All: Shine upon them and give them peace.

One: We pray for families and friends -
those who are with us, those who are far from us, those who need your guidance,
and those in our memories, who now live with you;

All: Shine upon them and give them peace.

One: We pray for ourselves.

Let there be peace enough in our hearts and minds
to receive your good news in light,
in word, in song, and in the faces of others.

Help us to treasure the blessings of Christmas,
and use us to do your work in the world,
for the sake of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

+Hymn 134 *Joy to the World*

+Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Improvisation on *Campañas de Belen*

OFFERING TO SUPPORT OUR PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Many times neighbors and travelers come through our doors needing assistance. Often we refer them to organizations like Area Congregations Together in Service (ACTS) which GPPC supports financially. ACTS case managers work with clients to assess needs, craft budgets, and offer help with rent, mortgage, and utilities. Occasionally we offer direct assistance: a night in a hotel, a bus ticket, a tank of gas, an electric bill, medicine, a meal. Your gift to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund will enable us to keep making such gifts.



*Tonight anything put into the designated wall boxes
beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary
will be contributed to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.*

*Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online at
<https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>, or by using the QR Code to the left.
Use the drop-down menu to contribute to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.*

*You are welcome to join us again tonight at 9:00pm
for a quiet service of scripture, hymns, prayer, and communion.*

A WOMEN'S LECTIONARY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH, assembled by Wilda Gafney is guiding GPPC's worship this year. Gafney's translation of Luke is used in tonight's worship. The translation of Micah is the New Revised Standard Version.

POINSETTIAS - Thanks to everyone who purchased a poinsettia to decorate our chancel. If you would like to take your poinsettia home tonight, please return after tonight's 9:00pm Candlelight Service to do so. Any poinsettias not retrieved at the end of the second service tonight will be donated to local group homes and/or homebound members of GPPC.

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 AT 11:00AM FOR BRUNCH CHURCH

Jesus Christ's first bed was a manger – a place you typically find food. Still we meet God incarnate at the place we share a meal. We will look for God in one another as we share the Lord's Supper: a feast of bread and cup, eggs and fruit, fellowship, scripture, and prayer around tables in the Fellowship Hall.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please see today's greeter or an usher.

ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at ginterparkpc@gmail.com.

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