

Covenant Presbyterian Church

*2008 Christmas Eve Service and
Collection of Holidays Memories*





Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

PRELUDE

Lighting of the Advent Candle

During the past four weeks of preparation and waiting, the light of Christ has grown steadily brighter in our lives. Tonight, as we celebrate the fulfillment of his birth, we light all four candles, including the final, the Christ Candle.

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

PEOPLE: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

LEADER: For unto you a child is born.

PEOPLE: To us a son is given.

PEOPLE: And the government shall be upon his shoulders

Leader: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor.

PEOPLE: Mighty God

PEOPLE: Everlasting Father

LEADER: Prince of Peace

PEOPLE: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

LEADER: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN MEDLEY

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL # 41

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR #38

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN # 29

THE FIRST NOWELL #56

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Grace and Truth, In Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light. Or trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to the glory in our midst, hoping for little, and expecting less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

“For God So Loved the World” Choir

Thank you to those families and individuals who contributed pointsettias to the Sanctuary.

Ernestine L. Davis in loving memory of my parents and grandparents.

Chuck and Jean Eklund in loving memory of Chuck and Jean’s family.

Sarah Gentry in loving memory of Leta Davis, a special friend.

Kim Holland in loving memory of Carolyn Holland and Frances Cole- her grandmothers.

Paul and Ima Moss in loving memory of their parents.

Osric and Florence Reavis, in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Thornton and Mr. and Mrs. Osric K. Reavis, Sr.

Glen Smith in loving memory of dear family.

Sherry Templeton in loving memory of Lee and Mabel Templeton.



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December 25, 1978 was a special Christmas for me: It was on that day I began my career at *The Kansas City Star*. Yes, my first day at the paper was on Christmas! The news never stops, of course, but most people can't believe that my first day was a holiday. Now I always volunteer to work on the holiday (especially since the work shift doesn't begin until 4:00 pm). In that way I can remember that first day of work and help someone else have a holiday off. And for those who are counting, that means that this year will mark my 30th anniversary at *The Star*. In these difficult economic times at *The Star* and everywhere else, I am especially grateful to have a job to go to on Christmas Day!

Paul Backer

My memories are filled with spending the holiday with my family; parents, my sisters and grandmother thru out their lives. Christmas Eve ceremony, listening to the Christmas music and bringing a toy to give to another child are among my favorite traditions.

I would love to see all the churches on the corridor have a joint function during the holidays.

Unsigned

The Christmas of 1936 was the middle of the depression. That Christmas I received a small green tractor, I remember it so clearly! Besides my tractor, hanging stockings is a favorite tradition.

Chuck Eklund

One of my favorite holiday memories is having all my family attend the Christmas Eve candlelight service at Covenant. That service is still one of our favorites.

Kim Holland



My grandmother was an extraordinary person in my life, I think about her every day. She was a wonderful cook and baker, most of my favorite recipes were hers. Instead of stockings on Christmas morning we would get potato sacks, painted gold with lovely ribbons tying the sack closed. Our sacks were filled with candy and little gifts all wrapped up. I loved the potato sacks, I still have mine, it hangs all year round in our entry.

Cindy Worthy Perucca

December 24, 2008

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Rev. Perucca: The light shines into the dark nights of our souls. Christ the true light, brings God's Word to us, and gives us the power to become heirs of the realm of God on Earth.

People: We receive God's forgiveness, and we will walk in the light, through the grace of God.

FIRST READING:

“Isaiah 9:2-7 “

SECOND READING:

“Luke 2: 1-20”

HYMN MEDLEY

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #31
 Angels We Have Heard on High # 23
 O Little Town of Bethlehem #44
 Away in a Manger #25

SOLO: O Holy Night Chuck Eklund

MEDITATION: Good News of Great Joy Rev. Kirk Perucca
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

SOLO: Sweet Little Jesus Boy Paul Backer

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

SOLO: Lo, How a Rose Ye'er Blooming Paige Worthy

LIGHTING THE CANDLES: Silent Night, Holy Night #60

The pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle; then that of the elder. Together they light the candles of those sitting near the aisle. They in turn light the candle of those next to them. While the light is being passed, the congregation sings.

CLOSING HYMN “JOY TO THE WORLD” #40

BENEDICTION AND CLOSING PRAYER CIRCLE





Some Children See Him

Some children see Him lily white
the infant Jesus born this night
Some children see Him lily white
with tresses soft and fair

Some children see Him bronzed and brown
the Lord of heav'n to earth come down
Some children see Him bronzed and brown
with dark and heavy hair (with dark and heavy hair!)

Some children see Him almond-eyed
This Saviour whom we kneel beside
Some children see Him almond-eyed
With skin of yellow hue!

Some children see Him dark as they
Sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray
Some children see Him dark as they
And, ah! they love Him so!

The children in each different place
Will see the Baby Jesus' face
Like theirs but bright with heav'nly grace
And filled with holy light!

O lay aside each earthly thing
and with thy heart as offering

Come worship now the infant King

'tis love that's born tonight! 'tis love that's born tonight!

My fondest Christmas memory was the last time ALL of us, including my mom Billie Hirsch, were together to share Christmas day. My wonderful memory began with us all attending Covenant Christmas Eve service.

Jean Eklund

My favorite Christmas traditions-

- Christmas Eve service
- Life savers book in my stocking
- The Moss Christmas Eve family game night!

Sandi Moss

Opening presents with family is my favorite holiday memory~ my favorite tradition is coming to Christmas Eve services.

Florence Reavis



Just seeing happy smiles on everyone's face around Christmas time makes my day every year. It is a favorite memory and one I anticipate revisiting every year!

My favorite tradition is simply spending time with my family and friends around the holidays; it is a special time for me.

Darvyn Smith

Christmas was always a time of really good smells like the Christmas tree and the fruit cake that needed to be watered by my Dad. My mother always fussed at him about being heavy handed. I was a teenager before I could enjoy that part of Christmas.

Always decorate for Christmas, that is another tradition that is taken for granted. Never would I even be able to conceive of a Christmas without making the house look cheerful.

Mom was an extremely good cook, so Christmas Day dinner was definitely a highlight. To this day I never had dressing or pies that were better than Mom's.

So our Christmas tradition is to meet at my mom's house for dinner and an exchange of gifts. The gifts of course being a poor second to what was going to be on the table. Can you believe this? I have never hosted dinner at my house for Christmas! There's no reason. Mom would just cook enough for an army anyway.

Merry Christmas- *Linda Scott*

My favorite Christmas memories always involves the Christmas Eve Candlelight service. It's great to get to church and get ready for the service. Everyone is in a wonderful Christmas spirit. I really enjoy the Scripture readings of Jesus' birth followed by Christmas carols. I love singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. We say "good-bye," grateful for a wonderful community. After the service we often drive through the Plaza and enjoy the Christmas lights.

Kirk Perucca

Happy Days- at age 5 my Mother let me help her make rolls.

Harriet Helm

My favorite holiday memory when I was young was helping to grate coconuts for the icing on the white cake my grandmother made and preparing the fruit for the ambrosia my mother made.

We have begun a new tradition recently. My daughter, granddaughter and I catch an early movie then come back to my house or theirs for dinner and maybe another movie.

I would love to see Covenant do a play, with members performing, especially Paul Moss!

Marlene Reid

As a kid I left cookies out for Santa every Christmas Eve. One year I woke up to find that the cookies I'd left out hadn't been eaten. My quick thinking Dad told me "Don't worry, Santa is just on a diet this year!"

Christmas dinner is my favorite family tradition- there's nothing better than being surrounded by family and friends while enjoying good food!

I think it would be fun to have a Secret Santa at church also a Christmas party.

Angela Williams

Christmas traditions of Joy, both big and small so precious from the start, are moments to recall and treasure in the heart.



Holiday memories, traditions and fond thoughts...

Christmas Eve memory- having the family get together on Christmas Eve for hors d'oeuvres and games then go to church.

My Christmas memory – My mom would get my sister and I lip balms from Avon and put them in our stockings every year and still does.

Candi Moss

My favorite memory is one year when all our extended families celebrated dinner together. Three family members were wheelchair bound, one the three was 100 years old. What a blessing!

Coming to Covenant for the Christmas Eve worship service is my favorite holiday tradition. As a child I

used to go with my grandparents on Christmas Eve to worship.

I would love to see the church create a book of daily prayer before the holidays- a Bible Studies Advent book.

Ernestine L. Davis

We started a tradition of putting Dani's doll under the tree so Santa would take the old one and a new one would be there for her on Christmas morning. We substituted the doll for a radio for a few years but went back to the doll because they are very real for her as her baby. She has been such a joy to me.

Shirley Smith





The Shepherds and the Angels

...that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
...keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of
...the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord
...shined around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel
...said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good
...news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of
...David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, *the Christ*);' onmouseout="return
...nd();" href="javascript:void(0);"* the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you:
...you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'
13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
...*army*');' onmouseout="return nd();" href="javascript:void(0);"* praising
...God and saying,
14'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
...and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' peace, goodwill among
...people');' onmouseout="return nd();" href="javascript:void(0);"*
15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said
...to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken
...place, which the Lord has made known to us.' 16So they went with haste
...and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they
...saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and
...all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary
...treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds
...returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it
...had been told them.

When I was a small child World War II was going on. I lived on a small farm, Dad worked for the railroad. Christmas time was the only time we ever got oranges. We also got walnuts at Christmas too, the shiny kind. The walnuts had money in them. We knew Dad had put the coins in the nuts through the cracks in the shells but we didn't let him know we knew.

Ruth Albers

My favorite Christmas memory was, the year I was in my first Christmas church pageant! I was the virgin Mary and I needed a baby Jesus! I could not believe that Santa, delivered my Christmas present (a baby doll) the day before Christmas, just for me! It was the most significant Christmas of my childhood! I never shared this story with anyone because, Santa would have put ashes in my eyes, oops! Merry Christmas everyone.

Janice King



My favorite Christmas memories are waking up on Christmas morning filled with anticipation, having breakfast with family, being allowed to eat chocolate before 10:00 AM and then taking a nap at noon.

Osric Reavis

As an adult, my favorite thoughts of the holiday are attending my first Christmas Eve concert at Covenant. I thought that Chuck Eklund sang "O Holy Night" about as well as I had ever heard it then Paul Backer sang "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" and Paul Moss sang "Mary Did You Know". Those three songs are now among my Christmas favorites.

In 1976 for Christmas I treated myself to the album "Songs in the Key of Life" by Stevie Wonder and played that album until I wore it out.

Lewis Fairchild

