

**SILENT NIGHT**

Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright,  
round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night. Shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night. Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Please take the light of Christ with you wherever you go and depart in peace.*

**Paul Witmer, Minister**  
**Judith Henry, Music Director**

covenant christian church



december 24, 2015

We are spiritual seekers  
working to grow in our love of God,  
deepening our connection to each other and  
sharing with the world our passion for justice and peace.

church phone 276-3781

[www.covenant-christian.org](http://www.covenant-christian.org)

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come journey together . . .

December 24, 2015  
Christmas Eve  
Worship 6:30 p.m.

PRELUDE *Christmas Carols On Two Pianos*

Judith and Paul

## A WORD OF WELCOME

\*GATHERING HYMN #150 *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*

prepare the way of hope

\*LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE (Responsive)

Connie Schindler

In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the Word was God.

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.**

He was in the beginning with God.

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.**

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

**For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;**

**authority rests upon his shoulders.**

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,**

**Prince of Peace.**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

**We light a candle in the darkness. We are people of hope, looking for light.**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

*John 1 and Isaiah 9*

\*RESPONSE #134 *"Emmanuel"*

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.**

**God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.**

WITNESS THROUGH MUSIC *"Cover Him Joseph"*

Martin

prepare the way of peace

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Connie Schindler

*"In December Darkness"* by Ann Weems

*We will take a moment of silence to allow peace to emerge and settle with us.*

\*Appropriate time for standing, if able.

RESPONSE #162 *"What Child Is This"*

*What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?*

*Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:*

*haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

WITNESS OF THE ANCIENT WORD **Luke 2:1-14** pg. 58

Connie Schindler

WITNESS THROUGH MUSIC

*"Three French Carols"*

Judith and Paul

prepare the way of joy

THE CANDLE OF JOY

Rev. Paul Witmer

HYMN OF CELEBRATION #147

*"Away in a Manger"*

prepare the way of love

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Rev. Paul Witmer

A HYMN OF CELEBRATION #155

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(All are invited to come forward to the communion table

as a sign of our commitment to receive the light of Christ this night.

If you are unable to come forward, a deacon will bring the elements to you.)

INVITATION AND CALL TO GIVING

(The offering received tonight will go to the Christmas Offering, a

special offering that supports the ministry of the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest.)

COMMUNION PRAYER

Susan Guy

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Paul Witmer

FEAST OF LOVE *"Silent Night"* arr Raney

*All are invited to the table of the Lord.*

*You may come forward to the table to receive the gift of communion and make your gift in response.*

light: the way of the Lord

As we receive the light of Christ and pray for the peace of the world, let us sing "Silent Night" and depart in peace. Merry Christmas! (See back of bulletin for words.)