

# **Clarence Presbyterian Church**

**9675 Main Street, Clarence, New York 14031**

**The Rev. Dr. Jason Cashing, Pastor**

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**Growing, Serving, Celebrating**



**Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2024**

**Pre-Service Concert—7:30 pm**

**Worship Service—8:00 pm**



**Friends, at this stop on your life's pilgrimage  
we bid you welcome  
with the hope that here you will find the  
love of God, which He offers  
to all who seek to serve and follow Him!**



*Christmas Eve Pre-Service Concert*

““Variations on Puer Nobis Nascitur (Unto Us Is Born a Son)” Organ	J. P. Sweelinck (1562-1621)
““Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” Oboe and Organ	John Rutter (b. 1945)
“Romance from Trio-Serenade” Flute, Oboe, and Piano	Anselme Vinée (1847-1921)
“Christmas Is a Feeling” Women's Choir with Flute	Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)
“Good Christian Men, Rejoice” Men's Choir	John Carter
“O, Holy Night” Soprano	Adolphe-Charles Adams/Arr. by Randa Kirshbaum
“Dolce & Allegro from Sonata No. 3” Flute and Oboe	G. F. Telemann (1681-1767)
“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” Organ	Max Reger (1873-1916)

*Musicians:*

*Flute: Maoto Shimojo*

*Oboe: Mia Fasanello*

*Soprano: Karen D'Angelo*



*Christmas Eve Service*

RINGING THE BELL

PROPHECY READING: Isaiah 40:1-5

Pew Bible p. 627

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No.140 "Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

*v.1 Soloist*

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was the mother Mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*V.2 Choir Only*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*\*v.3 & v. 4 Congregation*

***Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.***

***And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.***

CALL TO WORSHIP:

The Belanger Family

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.  
We light these candles as a sign of the coming light  
of Christ. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word  
was God.

**Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!** *(First Advent Candle is lit)*

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him and  
without him not one thing came into being.

**Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!** *(Second Advent Candle is lit)*

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

**Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!** *(Third Advent Candle is lit)*

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

**Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!** *(Fourth Advent Candle is lit)*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of  
a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**The light still shines! Glory! Glory! The light of the Ages shines on! Come, let  
us walk in the light of the Lord!** *(Christ Candle is lit)*

\*HYMN: No. 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELIS

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,***

***O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!***

***Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!***

***Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;***

***O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!***

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
very God, begotten, not created!**

**Refrain**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

**Refrain**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;**

**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!**

**Refrain**

## WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

### CHRISTMAS EVE COLLECT (in unison)

**O God, who made this most Holy Night to shine forth  
with the brightness of the true light, grant us understanding that  
we may also journey to Bethlehem to find the Child. Grant  
us wisdom to find the love of Christ in all people. Teach  
us to find the true meaning of Christ's coming in the inner peace that  
comes from above. Bless us and our families as we gather to celebrate the great gift  
of your Child, who became Jesus Christ our Lord and taught us to pray...**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

**Our Father, who art  
in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it  
is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver  
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### ANTHEM: "Long, Long Ago"

G. Alan Smith

Women's Choir

*Winds through the olive trees softly did blow, 'round little Bethlehem hillside lay whiter than  
snow; Shepherds were watching them Long, long ago, then from the happy sky, Angels bent  
low, singing their songs of joy, Loong, long ago. For in a manger bed, cradled  
we know, Christ came to Bethlehem Long, long ago.*

### SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:26-38

Pew Bible (NT) p. 53

### ANTHEM: "Quia Fecit Mihi (Holy Is His Name)"

Michael John Trotta

Karen D 'Angelo, Soprano & Mia Fasanello, Oboe

*He has done great things for me, he is mighty,  
and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them in all generations. Holy is his name, and  
mighty his mercy. He has done great things for me he is mighty, and holy is his name.*

### SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-7

Pew Bible

HYMN: No. 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

***For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.***

***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.  
O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!***

SCRIPTURE READING: : LUKE 2:8-20

Pew Bible (NT) p. 54

\*HYMN: No. 113 "Angels, We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

***Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.***  
***Refrain:***  
***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***  
***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

***Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?***  
***Refrain***

***Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.***  
***Refrain***

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: "No More Waiting"

ANTHEM: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

arr. by Alf. S. Houkom

Chancel Choir & Erin Shimojo, Violin

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming,  
as men of old have sung. It came a floweret bright. Amid the cold of winter, when half-spent  
was the night.*

*Isiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother  
kind. To show God's love aright. She bore to men a Savior when half-spent was the night.  
This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, Dispels with  
glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True Man, yet Very God, from sin and  
death He saves us and lightens every load.*

THE OFFERTORY: "Siciliano from Sonata No. 5"

G. F. Telemann (1681-1767)

Maoto Shimojo, Flute & Mia Fasanello, Oboe

\*DOXOLOGY AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS:

Hymn No. 609

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES:

(The Pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle and then light the candles of the ushers. The ushers will then light the candle of the worshiper in each pew nearest the aisle. Please light your neighbor's candle. To prevent dripping candle wax please tip only the unlighted candle.)

HYMN: No.122 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

STILLE NACHT

***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.***

***Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!***

INTERCESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE:

Father, in this holy night your Son our Savior was born as a human child.  
Help the Church also to be the Body of Christ.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over are celebrating his birth.

Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary in the pain of labour brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in any kind of pain or distress today.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.  
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.  
Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the fields heard good tidings of joy.  
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.  
Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

THE CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: HYMN No. 134 "Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

***Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.***

POSTLUDE: "Toccatà in A Major"

P.D. Paradies (1707-1791)



#### **PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP**

**Rev. Dr. Jason Cashing Minister**

Kotoe Shimojo, Director of Music Ministry

Greeters: Tom and Maryalice Yaiko

Ushers: : Bob Poczik & John Baudanza

Live Stream: Dave Gardiner



*Poinsettias, Gifts and Memorials*  
*Given in Celebration of the Season of the Nativity*  
*and in Gratitude for God's Gift*  
*Christmas 2024*

*Poinsettias:*

In remembrance of Harry and Sally Moehlau from their Children  
In remembrance for beloved parents and brothers from Gene & Marilyn Koszarek  
In memory of loved ones given by Debbie & Alex Saboda  
In memory of our parents from the Anderson, Schroeder, Nadrich and Gawron families.  
In memory of Christina Anderson from Tom, Martha, Hannah, Tom, Matthew,  
and Sarah Anderson.  
In memory of Loved Ones given by Thomas Nelson, Jr.  
In memory of Jack and Norma Ulrich, Karen Ulrich-Jasinski and John Schrantz. We love and  
miss you every day. Given by Kristin Ulrich, Karla Ulrich-Schrantz and family.  
In memory of loved ones from John & Barbara Moscati

**Epiphany Sunday White Gift Celebration, January 5, 10**

**am Service**—We will join the three kings in bringing gifts to Jesus. We will offer  
**White Gifts** to serve the Food Pantry. We especially welcome: Kleenex, toilet tissue,  
soap, paper towels, napkins and any monetary donation in a white envelope! Remembering that  
in Jesus Christ, God gave us the greatest gift, it is our joy to offer our gifts as an expression of  
our deep gratitude and in recognition of the tremendous need among our brothers and  
sisters here in the community. Stars will be distributed on that day as well.

**Welcome and thank you for worshiping with us tonight!**

**Some things you should know:**

**Please silence mobile devices when entering the sanctuary.**

**Please stand as you are able when \*asterisk appears.**

**Communion is by intinction at the 11 pm service. Gluten free bread/wafer is used at  
all times.**

**The 7:30 pm concert/8:00 pm service are being live streamed. We live stream the 10  
am service each Sunday and for special services.**

**Additional assistance available from the ushers:**

**Large print Hymnals, Bibles & Bulletins.**

**Printed copies of today's sermon available prior to the services; available online on most  
Mondays.**

**Location of the Elevator, Hearing Devices, Recorded Services.**