

A WORSHIP SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

8:00 p.m.

CHIMES

PRELUDE

Carol Medley
“What Month Was My Jesus Born In?” Spiritual
“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” Fr. Canadian Folk Melody
“Midnight Clear (Scottish Dancing Carol)” Lyrics by Heather Reylek
Sweet Island Dulcimers:

Karin Bennett, Linda Betjeman, Wendy Clark, Anne Danforth, Vicky Kotula, and Linda Kraus

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Adkison

INTROIT

“Christmas Gloria” Kevin R. Hackett

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and grant us peace.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and bring us true joy.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and fill us with love.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come!

*HYMN

“Joy to the World” No.134

*HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” No.119

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

Adkison Family

Tonight, we light all five candles—the candles of hope, peace, joy, love, and finally, the Christ Candle, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. The Candle of Hope reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. The Candle of Peace reminds us that peace will one day reign. The Candle of Joy is a reminder that we have been given eternal life and have no reason to be fearful. And the Candle of Love represents God’s redeeming love for us, brought to earth in the form of a tiny child. And finally, let us light the Christ Candle as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thank you, God, for your light in this world through Jesus Christ. The light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overcome it. Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION (In Unison)

God of Light, tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We thank you for this, the most precious of Christmas gifts, and we ask that you keep the hope, peace, joy and love of this season in our hearts, now and throughout the coming year. Emmanuel—God is with us, now and forevermore. Amen.

HYMN

“O Come All Ye Faithful” No. 133

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

In a little town, known for nothing much, God’s holy child was born.

Welcome the Light!

By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way.

Welcome the Light!

Shown by a courtyard fire, the open stable door.

Welcome the Light!

Warm breath of resting beasts, kindly sparkle in their eyes.

Welcome the Light!

In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

Welcome the Light!

There Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us.

Welcome the Light!

Angels opened the doors of heaven, sang “Glory to God in the highest!”

Welcome the Light!

Shepherds saw the sky ablaze, left their sheep and came to see.

Welcome the Light!

In the darkest winter night, God set a brilliant star.

Welcome the Light!

Magi from the East divined God’s shining sign.

Welcome the Light!

And on this Christmas night with joy, we greet the Child.

Welcome the Light!

HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” No. 121

OFFERTORY

Carol Medley
“Green Sleeves” trad. English
“A La Rue” Hispanic Folk Melody, arr. Donald Robb
“In the Valley” arr. Jean Ritchie
Sweet Island Dulcimers

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

ANTHEM "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" arr. Joel Raney

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20

RESPONSE May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart,
be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Ps. 19:14)
Thanks be to God!

HOMILY "Continuing Christmas Kindness" Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Adkison

***HYMN** "The First Nowell" No. 147

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

***HYMN** "Silent Night, Holy Night!" No. 122
First verse- Roswitha Wissemann, soprano soloist

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Adkison
May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child. And may God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer - bless you now and forevermore. Amen

POSTLUDE "Angels We Have Heard on High" Robert Edward Smith

*Please stand, if able

Shelter Island Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2025



Shelter Island Presbyterian Church Mission Statement:

"We envision the Shelter Island Presbyterian Church as a spiritual heart of our small island community -- a congregation that keeps its doors open to all and offers service and support to friends, neighbors, and visitors from beyond our shores. We will encourage the spiritual growth of our church's people in Jesus Christ through worship, service to others, stewardship, study and fellowship with one another. We will work to increase our spiritual engagement with youth, young families and our growing senior population. Inspired by God's Word, we look forward to our future with faith and confidence in God's purpose for us. AS WE BELIEVE, SO WE DO.