



# LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME

Worship liturgy and prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

## Gathering to Worship

**PRELUDE** Melody Raef

**WELCOME** Davis Gammon

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** The Parker Family

**\*AN INVITATION TO REJOICE** *Adapted from Luke 2:1-14*

Leader: In those days, in the beginning,  
Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.  
He was to be registered, and she was expecting a child.  
The time came for Mary to give birth, so she delivered her child,  
wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

**People: And the angels sang,  
“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth, peace to all whom God favors.”**

Leader: Let us worship our with-us God.

**People: Let us sing songs of praise!**

**\*HYMN OF WELCOME** #41 *O Come All Ye Faithful*

**1)** 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!

**3)** Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

**4)** Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

## Confessing to God's Mercy

**\* CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving Christ, When the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped their things and ran. They trusted the angels' invitation. They believed that your love existed for them. We wish that we were more like that. Instead, somewhere between the angels' song and the manger, we tend to lose our way. We doubt ourselves. We doubt the invitation. We doubt that love could know our names. Remind us that your love is personal and specific. Remind us that the good news of this day is for us. With hope we sing, we pray, and we run. Amen.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** #23 *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
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.

## Proclaiming God's Word

**CHILDREN'S STORYTIME**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Isaiah 9:6; Pew Bible p. 555

**LESSON** Luke 2:1-20; Pew Bible p. 832-833

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"  
Sung by Tom Ballou

**HOMILY** "Love Knows Your Name" Rev. Crystal Varner Parker

## Responding to God's Love

**\*HYMN OF JOY** #40 *Joy to the World*

1) Joy to the world; the Lord is come; Let Earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry Heart prepare him room, And Heav'n and nature sing.  
2) Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns, Let men their Songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, Repeat the sounding joy.  
3) 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.  
4) He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations  
prove The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love.

## COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

All are welcome at this feast. Our God welcomes anyone who is seeking Christ, who feels lost, who questions, who doubts, or who needs to hear the affirmation this evening, "You belong here."

### Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO THE CHRIST CHILD

### OFFERTORY

"The First Noel" played by Vivian Parker

### \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

#56 The First Nowell

1) The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain:** Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

#### *Departing to Serve*

## SHARING THE LIGHT

We invite you to proceed to the front lawn of the church, where we will bring the light of Christ into the world as a proclamation of the message we are called to carry throughout our lives. Once all have gathered outside, we will join to sing "Silent Night."

## HYMN OF SENDING

*Silent Night*

1.) 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.

2.) 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!"

3.) 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.

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION



Providence Forge Presbyterian Church

to further God's kingdom on earth, one soul at a time

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**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

**Christmas Eve: Words for the Beginning**