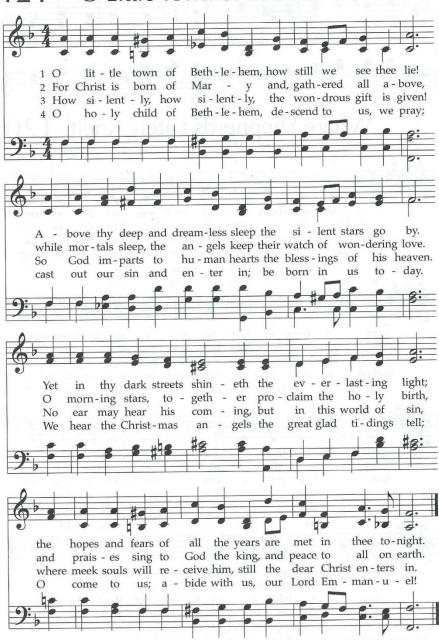
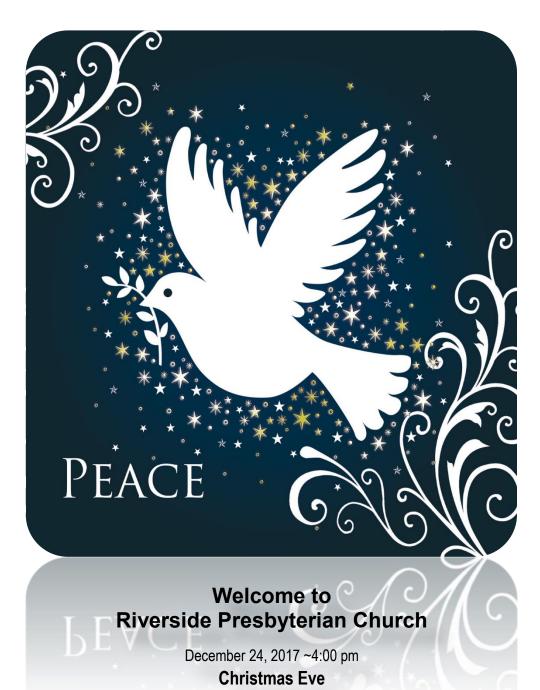
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868 MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868 ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6 (alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)



Ask an usher for audio hearing units. ~ Please silence your cell phones.

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE Bell Choir Pat a Pan arr. Jefferey A. Hall

* PASSING OF THE PEACE (Responsive)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

How Far Is It to Bethlehem arr. David W. Music

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

BELL CHOIR Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine arr. Kevin McChesney

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Welcome to this most magical night when angels and shepherds mingle and the birth of a baby changes the world.

We come to celebrate with joy and wonder.

Celebrate the light that shines all around us.

We will sing and praise our most wondrous God.

Let us kneel before the Christ child, who promises God's peace for all people.

* CAROL #60 Riverside Ringers & Singers Silent Night, Holy Night

* CHRISTMAS PRAYER (Unison)

O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Prince of Peace," and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love.

Touch us— touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM READING

Lift Your Eyes Aaron David Miller
This Year by Ann Weems

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY Carol of the Bells Leontovich/Wilhousky PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CAROL #38 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear READING Christmas Bells by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

CAROL #51 See Amid the Winter's Snow READING Peace on Earth by Anne Weems

CHORAL ANTHEM Before the Marvel of This Night Carl Schalk

ORGAN INTERLUDE

SCRIPTURE READING The Christmas Story According to Luke

CAROL #31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
READING Amazing Peace by Maya Angelou

CAROL #44 O Little Town of Bethlehem SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

As we sing the carol please pass the light of Christ to those in the pew next to you. Please hold the lit candle upright and tilt the unlit candle. It is our Christmas prayer that in the dark streets of our world the light of Christ will shine forth peace, love and Good News.

At the conclusion of the carol you are invited to depart in silence.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Special thanks to the readers this evening: Dennis Cobb, Lynda Nadkarni, Ellen Hamilton and Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak

Thank you to the Riverside Ringers and Singers, the acaBELLa Ringers and the RPC Chancel Choir for joining today's Ministry of Music.

Ushers: Claire and Will Gangware

Andrew Ministers: Lynda Nadkarni and Susan Lynch

^{*} You are invited to stand if able.