

# Parma Greece United Church of Christ

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*"No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life's journey,  
you are welcome at Parma Greece UCC!"*

## **CELEBRATING THE NAVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS EVE - 2015**

### **The Prelude**

### **Word of Greeting and Announcements**

### **Musical Meditation**

### **Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Let us go, just as we are, to see what has happened;  
let us go with the shepherds.

**People: Let us go and find the One  
of whom the angels sang.**

Liturgist: Let us go with those who are wise.

**People: Let us go and find the One  
who brings God's truth to us.**

Liturgist: Let us go with the poor in spirit, and in flesh;  
let us go with those who are humbled by life.

**People: Let us find the Glory of God  
born in a stable, and placed in a feeding trough.**

Liturgist: Let us go with our friends and family;  
let us go with our neighbors and with strangers,  
let us go with all the children of God.

**People: Let us go to find the One who comes  
to lead us home to God's kingdom.**

Liturgist: O come, let us go to the Babe of Bethlehem.

**People: O come, let us adore him! Christ our Lord!**

## **The Prophecy of the Light**

### **The Prophecy**

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

Liturgist: Jesus, Son of Mary, Son of God born this night.

**People: God's word has been made flesh among us.**

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

**People: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness-on them a light has shined.**

Liturgist: You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

**People: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Liturgist: He is also called Emmanuel, for in Him God is with us.

### **The Anthem**

"Cool Night, Quiet Night"

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

Liturgist: God came into the world  
so none would live in darkness.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Liturgist: The light shines in the darkness

**People: and the darkness does not overcome it.**

Liturgist: This is the good news for all people:  
to us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**People: All things will never be the same.**

**In Him the world is transformed.**

Liturgist: The world is made new with  
hope, peace, joy and love.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Liturgist: Let us pray:

**All: Source of light, shine in our lives and in Your world with Your transforming power. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

**The Hymn**            The Candle of Christ  
The Christ candle's light that shines for us here,  
Tells out the good news that God has come near!  
God came, a poor baby, in one time and place,  
To show all creation the wealth of God's grace.

### **The Preparation for the Light**

**The Annunciation**

Luke 1:28-32

**The Magnificat**

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

"My soul doth magnify the Lord", will be my song of praise.  
My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior all my days.  
For He hath seen my lowly state and blessings come always:  
Refrain: Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.

The Lord hath done great things for me and holy is His name.  
His mercy flows to them who kneel in awe and fear the same.  
He casts the mighty from their thrones and puts the proud to shame:

Refrain: Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.  
With strength of arm the Lord exalts the meek from where they bow.  
Fills poor and hungry souls with things the rich do not allow.  
From Abraham and Sarah's line he keeps his sacred vow;  
Refrain: Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.

**The Carol**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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## The Coming of the Light

### The Birth of the Christ-Child

Luke 2:1-20

**The Anthem** "Long, Long Ago"

**A Christmas Meditation** "Do Not Be Afraid"

**The Carol** "O Holy Night"

### The Christmas Prayer

Liturgist: In the quiet of the night.

**People: In the quiet of this night.**

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Liturgist: Let us pray.

**The Hymn** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"  
Verses 1 & 2

#345-B

### The Sacrament of Holy Communion

#### The Invitation

#### The Great Thanksgiving

Liturgist: On this silent night, God is with you!

**People: God is also with you!**

Liturgist: On this holy night, God's Grace comes to us.

**People: Our hearts rejoice in His becoming one of us,  
that we might become one with God.**

Liturgist: On this Night of nights, the shadows of the world  
melt away before God's Light.

**People: We join the choirs of angels in singing to the universe  
the good news of the birth of Jesus.**

Liturgist: This is the night Your heart bursts open with Joy;  
this is the evening Grace pours out of heaven;  
this is the moment when You come to make all things new,  
ever-creating God. You shaped light out of the shadows of  
chaos, and molded Your children from the earth, looking  
in the mirror as you formed us, breathing Your Spirit into  
our empty lungs. Made for life with You in the Garden you  
designed for us, we ran away into the wilds of the world,  
believing we were wiser than you, that we could make our  
own way. Yet Your love never failed us, your compassion  
was never taken from us, You would not abandon us in our  
foolishness. You brought us out of slavery into that land of  
promise and hope. You sent your prophets to speak to us  
of Your disappointment in us, and to remind us of Your  
dreams for us. Your love for us was so passionate, that You  
sent Your only Son to become one of us that we might be  
one with you again.

So on this night when heaven reaches down to caress  
creation with healing, we join the angel choirs who sang  
Your glory, and with your people in every time and place,  
caroling the good news which is ours:

**The Carol**      “Angels We Have Heard On High”

#125-B

Verses 1 & 3

Holiness is who You are, God of Christmas, and blessings  
come in Jesus Christ, Your Child of Grace. Finding no  
warm welcome at his birth, He knew the cold shoulder of  
friends at His death; born in the rude confines of a barn, He  
knew the suffering of Your children; sent to be Your Word

made flesh, He calls us to follow Him into your Kingdom; proclaimed by the prophet as our Prince of Peace, He died in the quagmire of human violence. By his death and resurrection, You have given new life to all creation. So, as we gather on this holiest of nights, we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

**All: Born in the shadows of night, Christ is our light;  
dying on a rough cross, Christ is our life;  
rising from a cold tomb, Christ is our hope;  
returning to us once more, Christ is Your promise.**

Liturgist: Pour out Your Spirit upon us, Wonderful Counselor, and on the gifts You have given us. We lift the broken bread, praying we would be made whole, at peace with one another, and reconciled to You. As we drink from the vineyard of grace, we believe that our salvation has come, and we are one with Christ, our flesh filled with His spirit of sacrifice, our spirits refreshed by His compassionate heart. As your joy flows into us, may we become a river carrying Your justice to the poor; as Your hope sings in our hearts, may we carry Your righteousness to all who suffer. And as we taste the promise of the feast You prepare for us in Your kingdom, may we live for You and serve Your children, as we have been served by the Child of Christmas, Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior. Amen.

**The Prayer Of Our Savior - Singing**  
**Our Father, Which 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.**

### **The Breaking of Bread and Pouring The Cup**

**The Communion**      Grape Juice in center of the tray  
                                 Bread is Gluten Free

### **Prayer After Communion – Unison**

**We give you thanks most gracious God, for feeding us with these holy mysteries that assure us of Your being one with us. Grant that the angel’s song may be continually on our lips and Christ’s light may radiate in our lives, that in all we do we may take the good news of Your love to a waiting world.**

### **Receiving the Light of Christ**

### **Litany of Dedication**

**Liturgist:** In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in deepest night and the night has not overcome it. Our Lord has said to us: “I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness.”

**All:**      **In the name of Christ my Savior, I will light my candle, that He may bring light into the darkness of my life and in so receiving, I will carry His light from this place to shine in the darkness of the world.**

{Take your light by tipping your candle in the light offered by the usher or the person next to you. When everyone's candles are lit in your pew, move out the side aisle to form a circle around the perimeter of the sanctuary. We will do this while singing the closing carol.}

**\*The Carol**

“Silent Night, Holy 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 loves 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!

**The Dismissal**

Liturgist: Go into the night, glorifying and praising God for all  
you have seen and heard. May Christ be your light,  
this night and forevermore.

**People: Amen.**

**\*The Postlude**

*A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL*

*Flowers on the Altar  
In Memory of*

*Peter Varlan  
John Snetsinger  
Family  
Barbara Harris  
Family  
Loved Ones  
Bob & Jeff Mechler  
Barbara Harris  
Roger & Joyce Harris  
Walt Listman  
Grandparents  
The Young's  
Marjorie Lillian Romig  
Sergeant Robert G. Romig  
John Carrier  
Patricia McKay  
James McAuliff  
Chris Dawkins  
Douglas Weitzel  
Mildred & Albert Weitzel  
Agneta & Harold Rosa*

*Sue Varlan  
Shirley Snetsinger & Best  
  
Shirley Snetsinger & Best  
  
Joan & Ken Blossom  
Shirley Mechler  
David Harris & Family  
David Harris & Family  
Sharon Listman  
Sharon Listman  
The Costantino's  
Sherry & Eric Romig  
Sherry & Eric Romig  
Sheila & Bill McAuliff  
Sheila & Bill McAuliff  
Sheila & Bill McAuliff  
Richard Dawkins  
Ann & Dick Weitzel  
Ann & Dick Weitzel  
Ann & Dick Weitzel*

*In Honor Of*

*Betsy, Evan & Dominic  
Merle & Wyn Richardson  
Jeanne & Ray Traugott*

*Pamela Dunning  
Jodie & Kurt Traugott  
Jodie & Kurt Traugott*