WINTER ROSE

Words and Music by Joseph M. Martin



Christmas Eve Our Lord's Birth December 24, 2020



Welcome

Call to Worship

We gather tonight to celebrate the coming of Christ's Light.

United in Spirit with family and friends we worship and adore the Christ-child.

With Mary we ponder the mystery of Your grace.

With Joseph we give thanks for God's steadfast love.

Lift up your hearts in thanksgiving, for a child, the Child, has been born!

We gather to worship Christ and pray for God's peaceful kingdom.

May Christ's name be blessed among all the earth;

Christ's reign will have no end!

Morning Prayer

Good and gracious God, on this holy night we remember how you gave us your Son, the Savior of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing of your glory. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. We pray in the name of our savior. Amen.

* Hymn	"Angels We Have Heard on Hight"	No. 23
Advent Candle Lighting	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Mark Hornbaker
Christ Candle Lighting	Luke 2:1-7 and Luke 2:8-14	
* Hymn	"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"	No. 31

Prayers of the People

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need. Amen.

Cantata

The Winter Rose by Joseph M. Martin

The First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir directed by Mark Hornbaker

The Winter Rose

Choir and Marleigh Adkins, soloist

While the world lies frozen beneath the chilling breath of winter, a spotless Rose blooms. Against the harsh surroundings, its beauty unfolds, one petal at a time. The Winter Rose is born so that the Garden might be restored.

Advent Cry

Sara Bender and Collin Nelson

The Holy One of Israel says: The rain and the snow come down from heaven; they water the earth, causing it to bud and flourish. In the cold of winter, you will be like a wellwatered garden. Your redeemer, the Rose of Sharon, will come to Zion. Blessed are all who wait for him.

Lullaby to a Rose

Sara Bender and Collin Nelson

The fragile infant entrusted to Mary and Joseph is the Promised One. With wonder, the couple ponders their sacred charge.

The Winter Rose Jenna Skeen

The Rose continues to blossom, its splendor revealed to all who embrace it. Spotless and perfect, its beauty is beyond compare. But all too soon, its season passes, and the Rose prepares to die. The rose, adorned with thorns, stand in full bloom. One by one the petals fall, blood-red upon the ground. As they are crushed beneath the feet of the crowd, the fragrance of Redemption is released.

Look to the Rose

Nancy Knurek and Mark Hornbaker

Rose of Sharon what a name for the Son of God who came. If you seek God's love today, look to the Rose.

Lo, How a Rose

Kathi and Andrea Elkins

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old hath sung. It came a flower bright, amid the cold of winter, when halfspent was the night.

Words of Comfort and Hope Blessing Sharing the Light

"Silent Night" * Hymn No. 60

"Joy to the World" * Hymn No. 40



Merry Christmas!

Thank you for being here to worship the King!

Tonight we kneel before the manger.

Our present is our presence.

Sharon Gearing, Pastor Mark Hornbaker, Master of Music

We wish to thank the following people for contributing to this special service:

Video Production:

Sharon Stevens – final worship video producer and editor. Mark Hornbaker – recording coordination and virtual choir video producer.

Readers:

Mark Hornbaker Collin Nelson Sara Bender

Choir:

Marleigh Adkins, soloist
Sara Bender
Andrea Elkins
Kathi Elkins
Amy Goins
Vickie Green

Nancy Knurek
Dave Long
John Melton
Sandy Melton
Collin Nelson
Jenna Skeen