

**Order of Worship
Christmas Eve Worship
Dec. 24th, 2019**

(indicates those who are able, please stand)*

PRELUDE “Angels We Have Heard on High” -arr. A. Zabel (Hand Bell Choir & Organ)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: On this holiest of nights, we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

All: On this most silent night, we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

One: On this night of carols and candlelight,

All: We rise, praising God with glad songs as we join the choirs of angels among us.

***CHRISTMAS CAROL #148 “O Come All Ye Faithful”**

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)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

(Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation, Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

(Refrain)

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

INVOCATION *(In unison)

Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love, a love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love and share its light with all who still dwell in darkness. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM “Sing We Now of Christmas” -arr. J. Althouse *(Brianna Schroeder, Henry Erenz, Trumpet)*

SCRIPTURE READING Luke +-1:26-35, 38

MEDITATION & CHRISTMAS PRAYER *(In unison)*

**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.**

*CHRISTMAS CAROL #155 “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)

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?**

(Refrain)

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth.
Come adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heav’n and earth.**

(Refrain) Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

ISAIAH FORETELLS THE BIRTH OF CHRIST Isaiah 9:2-7 *(page 638)*

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CHRISTMAS CAROL #160 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
**Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse’s lineage coming by faithful prophets sung;
it came a flow’ret bright, amid the cold of winter when
half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright she bore to us a Savior when
half spent was the night.**

MICAH FORTELLS THE GLORY OF BETHLEHEM **Pastor Bill** Micah 5:2-4 (*page 865*)

CHRISTMAS CAROL #144 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our God Emmanuel!**

THE BIRTH OF JESUS TOLD BY ST. LUKE Luke 2:1-7 (*page 58*)

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

CHRISTMAS CAROL #147 “Away in a Manger”
**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord
Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord
Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look
down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever,
and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in
thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CONTINUED Luke 2:8-20 (*page 58*)

CHORAL ANTHEM WITH HANDBELLS “Ding Dong Merrily On High” -arr. B. Kinyon

THE WISEMEN ARE LED TO THE STAR Matthew 2:1-11 (*page 2*)

Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CHRISTMAS CAROL #172 “We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

(Refrain)

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.

Glorious now behold him arise; Christ and God and sacrifice: alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

(Refrain) O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

OFFERING OUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

OFFERTORY “Good King Wenceslas” -arr. R. McKee
(Hand Bell Choir & Percussion)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #162 “What Child Is This”**

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich, and poor, to own him, The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

DEDICATION OF GIFTS *(In unison)*

Glorious God, we sing with the angels to celebrate the tremendous gift of your Son Jesus! We rejoice with gladness. You give us wonderful joy and peace in our Savior. May we exult in your goodness with the exhilaration of children opening presents. As we bring our offerings, we ask that our lives would reflect your joy and generosity. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CEREMONY OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

(The lights will be dimmed during Silent Night and the flame will begin to pass. The first flame will be taken from the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath and then dispersed among you. Take the flame from your neighbor and please keep the burning candles upright.)

CHRISTMAS HYMN #145 “Silent Night, Holy Night” (*Liz Casper, Flute; Kevin Heinzl, Guitar*)
(*The congregation joins in singing after the German verse is sung by Sue Menzies.*)

**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, 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.**

**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.**

BENEDICTION

(Lights return and candles are extinguished)

*CHRISTMAS CAROL #143 “Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth
receive her King; let every heart prepare Him
room, and Heaven and nature sing, and
Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations
prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of His love, and
wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.**

POSTLUDE “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” -arr. W. Held

*We thank Brianna Schroeder and Henry Erenz
for playing the trumpet this evening!*