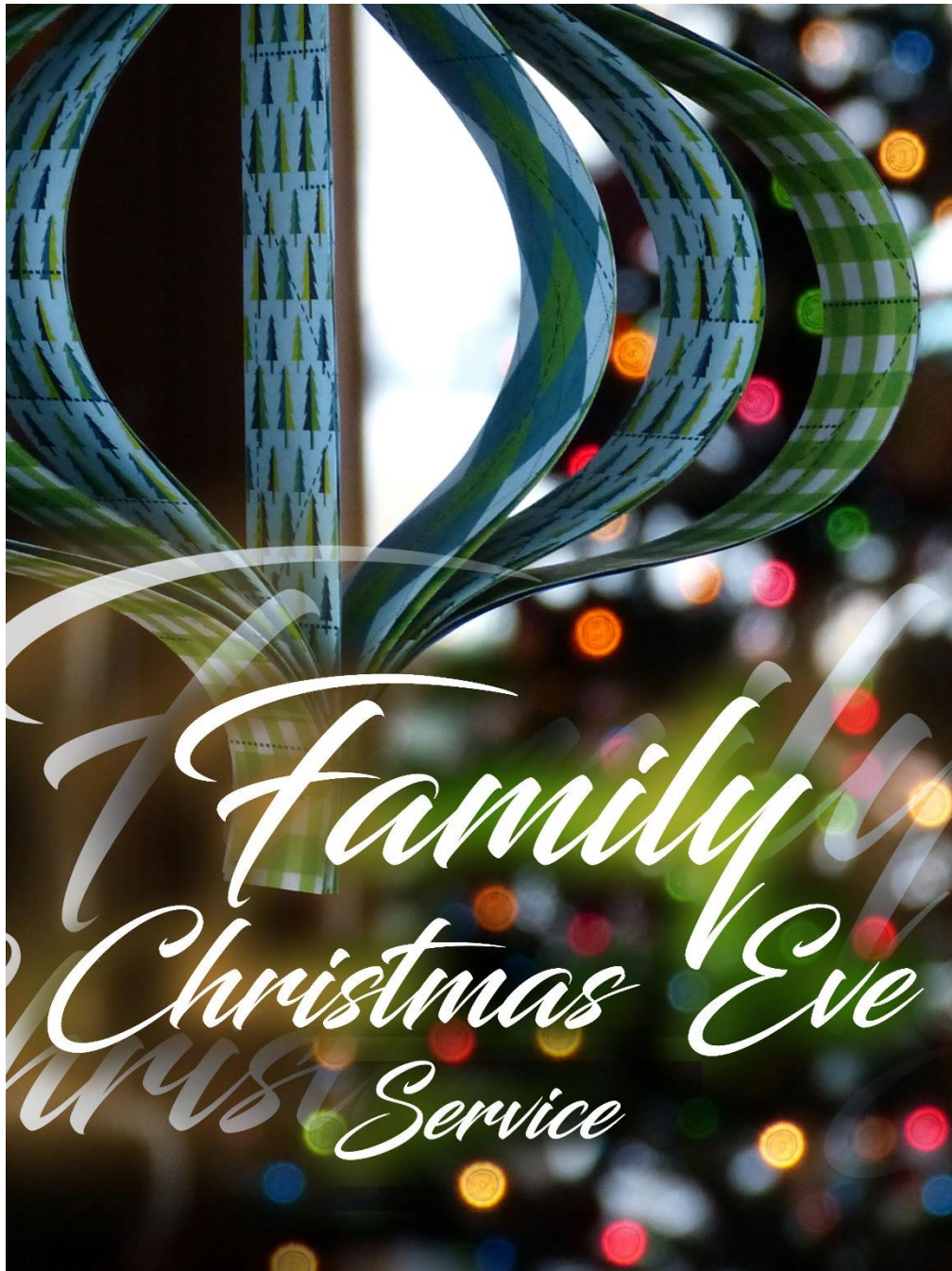




GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 24, 2021 — 5pm

Christmas Eve Family Worship Service 2021 — 5pm

PRELUDE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Mark Hayes

“Mary Had a Baby”

arr. Douglas E Wagner

Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Tonight we remember Jesus and the story of his birth;

ALL: Jesus is our King!

ONE: Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

ALL: Jesus lights the Way!

ONE: In Jesus we shall live forever:

ALL: Jesus is our Life.

ONE: Together we celebrate his birth with Joy!

MARY AND JOSEPH

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jake & Hilary Schmidt

STAR SONG

“Star so Bright”

Words & Music by Nan Grantham

Incorporating “We Three Kings”

Joy! & Celebration! Singers – Emily Hussey, director

Mallory Hearn & Aidan Hussey, triangles

*Abel Frye, Kamden Frye, Charlotte Hearn, Mallory Hearn, Aidan Hussey,
Liam Hussey, Evie Schmidt, James Schmidt, Magnolia Sellers, & Max Soule*

AN ANGEL APPEARED

*HYMN 121, *Stanza 1*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

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.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

ANGEL'S SONG

"A Star Dances, An Angel Sings" Words & Music by Greg Gilpin

Exaltation! Quartet – Linda Dover, director – Donna Heer, accompanist

Singers – Andrew Alka, Chris Alka, Lindsay Callender, & Kylie Sutherland

Ringers – Linda Bruns, Kathy Bures, Katie Hearn, Cheryl Johnson, & Celia Nicholas

SHEPHERDS CAME

***HYMN 119, Stanzas 1 & 3**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven-a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

HEROD HEARD THE NEWS

Soloist

“In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy”

IN BETHELEHEM

Rebecca Prater, soloist

In Bethlehem a newborn boy was hailed with songs of praise and joy.

Then warning came of danger near: King Herod’s troops would soon appear.

WISEMEN FOUND HIM

***HYMN 151, Stanzas 3-5**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

KINGS OF ORIENT

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

ALL WERE AMAZED

GLORY SONG

“Jesus , Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child” Traditional Spiritual
Celebration! Singers – Pam Kelly, director arr. Vicki Hancock Wright
Lara Schesser, assistant director – Angela Krug, accompanist
Cate Hussey & Morgan Krug - soloists
Xander Circo, Tatum Faison, Mallory Hearn, Liam Hussey, Brynnley Krug,
Conor Schesser, James Schmidt, Max Soule, Ethan Stromberg, & Harrison Stromberg

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving God,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May Christmas morning make us happy to be your children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*CANDLELIGHT HYMN 122

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

Congregation & Christopher Callender, guitar

(We will light one another's candles reminding us of the coming of the Light of the World.)

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

1 *고요한밤 거룩한밤*
어둠에 묻힌밤
주의부모 앉아서
감사기도 드릴때
아기잘도 잔다
아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;
 stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
 Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

(Please extinguish your candle at the close of the benediction before people start to move.)

***CLOSING HYMN 134**

“Joy to The World”
Stanzas 1 and 4

ANTIOCH

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

POSTLUDE

“Tidings of Joy” Linda Dover, organist

by Alice Jordan

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Participants in Tonight’s Service

Mary puppet — Sue Trigger

Joseph puppet — Conor Schesser

Messenger puppet — Xander Circo

Inn Keeper Puppet — Stewart Stuart

Shepherd puppets — Max Soule, Xander Circo

Herod puppet — Abel Frye

Angel puppet — Caitlin Hussey

Narrator puppets: Mallory Hearn, Kamden Frye, Melo Golsleston

Narrators: Caitlin Frye, Liam Hussey, James Schmidt

Holy Family:

Mary — Amy Sellers

Joseph — Andrew Sellers

Jesus — Weston Sellers

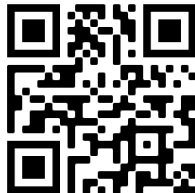
Angels — Bristol and Magnolia Sellers

Wisemen: Andrew Alka, Christopher Alka, Logan Callender, Clara Frye, Maddie Passett,
Kylie Sutherland

Angels (video): Andrew Alka, Christopher Alka, Lindsay Callender, and Kylie Sutherland

(Some cast member names may not have been available at time of printing.)

RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TONIGHT’S WORSHIP SERVICE WITH OUR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE PAD: Click this link: <https://bit.ly/GCPCattendance>, or scan the QR Code below, and it will take you to the link.



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