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
O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. 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.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
   While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
   O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
   And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
   So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
   No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
   Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

4. 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 Lord Emmanuel!
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
JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king."
2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
late in time behold him come, off-spring of the virgin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity,
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"
HEROD HEARD THE NEWS

Soloist  “In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy”  IN BETHELHEM
        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 Ori-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, ces-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!

1. 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, Christ the Saviour is born.

2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
   Holy infants so tender and mild,
   Grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
   With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
   King: Christ the Saviour is born!

4. Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
   Alleluia to our King: Christ the Saviour 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. 고요한 밤 기록한 밤
   이웃에 불같이 밝혀
   주의부모가 어렵며
   감사하기도 드림께
   아기들도 잠자라
   아기들도 잠자라

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;
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”  ANTIOCH
Stanzas 1 and 4
Joy to the World

1 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.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
   and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
   and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
   and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature 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.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attributed to George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836
ANTIOCH
CM with repeat
(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)
POSTLUDE

“Tidings of Joy”
Linda Dover, organist

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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 Soule, Xander Circo
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.)

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