



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 24, 2021 — 8pm

Christmas Eve Service — 8pm

PRELUDE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Mark Hayes

“Mary Had a Baby”

arr. Douglas E Wagner

Linda Dover, organist

*WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES (*Responsive*)

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord and bless God’s name;

tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world, and those who live in it.

Let the whole creation sing for joy at the presence of God, who is coming.

God is coming indeed, to judge the earth with righteousness,

and the peoples with equity and truth. Praise the Lord!

INTROIT

“Rise, Shine!”

Negro Spiritual

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

arr. Marques L. A. Garrett

Patrick O’Halloran, director – Beth Lillian, descant

and Tom Trenney

Oh, rise, shine! for the light is a-comin’; my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by.

This is the year of jubilee, my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by.

My Lord has set his people free, my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by.

I intend to shout an’ never stop, my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by.

Until I reach that mountain top, my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by.

Wet or dry, I intend to try, my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by.

To serve the Lord until I die, my Lord says He’s comin’ by an’ by.

Oh, rise, shine! for the light is a-comin’; my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by. Rise an’ shine!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Joe & Linda Hoffman

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

***Adam and Eve disobey God’s command
and disrupt the order and goodness of creation***

HYMNAL 121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
(Stanzas 1 & 2)

ST. LOUIS

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed

HYMNAL 88

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
(Stanzas 1 & 7)

VENI EMMANUEL

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah

***HYMNAL 123**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
(Stanza 1)

CAROL

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation

HYMNAL 129

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”
(Stanzas 1 & 2)

ES IST EIN' ROS'

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child

***HYMNAL 119**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
(Stanzas 1 & 2)

MENDELSSOHN

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child

SONG OF MARY, JOSEPH, & THE CHRIST CHILD

Scottish Folk Song, *adapted*

“What Strangers Are These?”

arr. Dan Forrest

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers – Patrick O'Halloran, director

What strangers are these that wander through the town? Hush, 'tis Joseph and weary Mary.

And what does he seek so hopeless and in vain? He is seeking shelter for Mary.

For she is the blest and chosen of the Lord, who will bear to us a goodly King.

And who is this King of whom ye proudly sing? Know ye not the Christ, Jesus the Savior?

What wee child is this that in a manger lies? Hush, 'tis Jesus Christ, Son of Mary.

Say what fair maid is this whose joy is mixed with awe? O 'tis Mary, mother of Jesus.

O these are the shepherds and these the magi kings who have brought him their gifts of gold and myrrh.

But why kneel in homage here before a babe? They adore their King, Jesus the Savior.

*Who are these that march from death into life? These are they who love Jesus the Christ child.
And how do they triumph o'er the gates of hell? Through the grace of him, Jesus the Savior.
He is born to redeem mankind from sin and strife, to bring peace, joy, love and brotherhood.
O where shall I find him? Where shall I seek? He is here and now, Jesus your Savior.*

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah

SONG OF THE SHEPHERD “Shepherd, Softly Play Your Pipes” Words by Jayne Rasmussen
featuring Bob Dover, clarinet Music by Mark Shepperd

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers – Rebecca Prater, director
*Shepherd, softly play your pipes. Let their song drift on the night.
May their simple, sweet refrain ease a mother's birthing pain.
Dance your song to stable far on glowing light of prophet's star.
Greet the child of humble birth in lilting notes proclaim his worth.
As joyous song on starlight soars, angels from the heavens pour.
Join the choir's jubilation! Play your pipes in celebration!
Shepherd, play your pipes tonight. Let their song be filled with light.
Your pipes foretell his destiny, who shall the greatest Shepherd be.
Shepherd, softly play your pipes. Let their song drift on the night.*

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus

HYMNAL 151

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”
(Stanzas 1 & 5)

KINGS OF ORIENT

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

***The Word of God becomes flesh
and lives among us, full of grace and truth***

***CANDLELIGHT HYMN 122**

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

(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.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

***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,

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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