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
SECOND LESSON  Genesis 22:15-18  
 God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed

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)  

FOURTH LESSON  Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9  
 The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation

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)  

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 by 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

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

STILLE NACHT
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. Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
   Holy King, by night supreme, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
   Christ the Saviour is born; Christ the Saviour is born.

3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light;
   Holy glories stream from heaven afar, heaven-ly hosts sing Alleluia to our King;
   Christ the Saviour is born; Christ the Saviour is born.

4. Silent night, holy night! Wonder-star, lend thy light;
   With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our grace;

GERMAN
   Held der Knabe im lockigen Haar, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN
1. 고요한 밤 거룩한 밤 어둠에 평화받 주의부모 안여서 감사기도 드리며 야기장도 잔다
   야기장도 잔다

SPANISH
1. ¡Noche de paz, noche de amor! Todo duerme en derredor, entre los astros que esparten 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.

MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
Korean trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

STILLE NACHT
Irregular
*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)
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 Saviour reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest tions prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his

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: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH
Cm with repeat
(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)
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