



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 8pm

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Christmas Eve Service

PRELUDE

“Chorale and Variations on
Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

by Johann Pachelbel
(1653–1706)

“Pastorale”

by Ignace Leybach
(1817–1891)

Linda Dover, organist

“He Shall Feed His Flock”
from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

“Ave Maria”

Charles Gounod

Sacred Melody adapted to the First Prelude of J.S. Bach

Bob Dover, clarinet

“Greensleeves”

arr. Richard Purvis

Linda Dover, organist

***WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES** (*Responsive*)

Psalm 96

One: Sing to the Lord a new song;

All: sing to the Lord, all the earth!

One: Sing to the Lord and bless God’s name;

All: tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

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

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

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

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

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

**All: God is coming indeed, to judge the earth with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity and truth. Praise the Lord!**

***HYMNAL 133**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
(*Stanzas 1, 3, and 4*)

ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

George and Kathy Bures

Reader: Tonight we light the four candles of Advent waiting. We light one for the people who waited for hundreds of years for God's Messiah.

Reader: We light one for Mary and Joseph waiting for Jesus to be born.

Reader: We light one for all the waiting we have done getting ready for this night.

Reader: We light one for all the people who are still waiting tonight for God's love and justice and peace.

Reader: Tonight, we can finally light the Christ Candle. On this night we celebrate that Jesus is born! The Messiah has come! So let us all say, "Merry Christmas!"

ALL: Merry Christmas!

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8–15, 17–19

Lauren Bond

***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

Trey Bures

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

SONG OF PROPHECY

"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

by Paul O. Manz

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Revelation 22, *adapted*

Carrie DeVries, director

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins.

Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,

who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,

for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more.

They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

THIRD LESSON**Isaiah 9:2, 6–7**

Trey Bures

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah***HYMNAL 110****“Love Has Come”
(Stanza 1)**

BRING A TORCH

FOURTH LESSON**Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6–9**

Jesse Bures

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**

Terri Monrad

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**

Lara Kupka

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child**SONG OF LOVE****“Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day”
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers**

arr. Howard Helvey

Linda Dover & Edwin Fukunaga, piano four-hands

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.**Thus was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance; Thus was I knit to man’s nature,
To call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.**In a manger laid and wrapp’d I was, so very poor, this was my chance, betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.
Sing O my love, sing O my love; This have I done for my true love.***SEVENTH LESSON****Luke 2:8–16**

Dave Pack

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah**SONG OF THE SHEPHERDS “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”**

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Music by Kyle S. Haugen
Words by Jaroslav J. Vajda***The lyrics of this song tell the personal story of a single shepherd who is drawn to the manger.***

*Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word, I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
 but there is room and welcome there for me.
 How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled?
 With pounding heart I stare: but there is room and welcome there for me,
 but there is room and welcome there for me.
 Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned its way into my heart, unasked, unforced, unearned?
 A still, small Voice to cry one day for me, a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me, to die, to live,
 and not alone for me.
 In that unlikely place I find him as they said: sweet newborn Babe, how frail!
 and in a manger bed; but there is room and welcome there for me,
 but there is room and welcome there for me.*

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1–11

Kathy Bures

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

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
 Linda Dover, organist

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1–14

Rev. Karen Wright

***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.

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

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Karen Wright

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,

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.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

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

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

POSTLUDE

“Tidings of Joy”
Linda Dover, organist

by Alice Jordan

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