



Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2022 8pm

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PRELUDE

“A Rosetti Christmas” Two Carols by Christina Rosetti
In the Bleak Midwinter and Love Came Down at Christmas
“How Far Is It to Bethlehem?” arr. Douglas E. Wagner
“O Come, All Ye Faithful” arr. Don Michael Dicie
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

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

NOËL NOUVELET

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

arr. Kyle Pederson

Bob Dover, clarinet

Traditional French Carol

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here. Hearts in expectation, Noel drawing near.

Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel; sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel.

In stillness lays the world in silent reverie; longing for the birth of love and mercy.

Yearning for hope, good news to fill our souls; turning to the manger that grounds all mystery. Noel!

Angels bending low, shepherds bend their knee, Wise Men from the east, all have come the child to see.

All of creation where love has come to dwell; sing we now of Christmas, the good news that we tell. Sing Noel!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Tim & Susan Hayden

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

Fred Starrett

***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
Darryl Prater, trumpet

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15–18

Barbara Douglas

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

Christine Caseres

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**

Eileen Thomson

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**

Georges Bures

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**

Kathy Bures

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child**SONG OF PEACE****“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”
arr. with new music by Marianne Forman
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers
Chris Lindsay, violin****CAROL, by Richard Willis
Text by Edmund Sears**

*It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
“Peace on the earth, good will to men from heaven’s all gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*All ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow.
Look, now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hast’ning on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold!
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

SEVENTH LESSON**Luke 2:8-16**

Lara Schesser

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah**SONG OF THE ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, & MAGI**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” Music by Henry T. Smart
Chancel & Exaltation! Singers Text by James Montgomery
Chris Lindsay, violin – Daniel Cole, percussion arr. Dan Forrest
Linda Dover & Edwin Fukunaga, piano four-hands

*Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth.
 Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.
 Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

*Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
 Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

*Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions beam afar.
 Seek the great Desire of Nations, ye have seen his natal star.
 Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

*All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son.
 Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal three in one!
 Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1–11

Rev. Sue Trigger

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

"We Three Kings"
 Linda Dover, organist

arr. Lynn Shaw Bailey

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1–14

Rev. Mitch Trigger

***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,

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

“Joy to the World”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Wilbur Held

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