

# The Songs of Christmas

Service of Worship December 25, 2022 9:30am  
Christmas Day – A Christingle Service

## Gathering

PRELUDE

“I Saw Three Ships”  
& “Carol of the Bells”  
Cal Sweeten, hammered dulcimer

English Carol  
Ukrainian Carol

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

WELCOME

Rev. Sue Trigger

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*sung responsive*)

ONE: O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;

**ALL: Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.**

ONE: We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

**ALL: O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.**

\*HYMN SING A time to sing your favorite songs of the season

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Reader: Simeon was an old and faithful man who looked forward to the salvation of Israel. When he saw baby Jesus with his parents, he immediately recognized him as the Messiah.

Reader: Simeon’s song is a joyful expression of peace. Simeon understood that he could die in peace for the promised Messiah had come. Simeon sang out that God is reliable, powerful and life giving.

Reader: Simeon's celebration showed his belief that what God was doing through the Messiah was for Gentiles and Jews. He believed that Jesus would welcome everyone, but not everyone would welcome Jesus.

Reader: On this Christmas Day we sing along with Simeon for God is faithful and has redeemed all people in Jesus, the Messiah. Once again we light the four candles of Advent that remind us of the songs of hope, love, good news, and joy. We light the Christ candle as a symbol of the light of Christ that came into the world.

**ALL: Come be with us, Jesus, and let your peace wash over us. Amen.**

#### A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*There is no Awakening to Worship or nursery today.*

#### A SYMBOL OF THE WORLD

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**We confess those times when we have failed to bring light into the world around us. We are sorry for those things which we have done which have hurt others or damaged the world in which we live. You were born for our salvation. You came to bring wholeness and peace. You came to bring light into the darkness of our lives. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.**

#### A SYMBOL OF LIGHT

#### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you and all others!**

\*HYMN 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Stanza 1*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say; Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow; and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

#### A SYMBOL OF LOVE

\*HYMN 138

“Who Would Think That What Was Needed”

WHITE ROSETTES

Kate Trigger Duffert, soloist

Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth might not be a plan or army; proud in purpose, proved in worth? Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way? God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.

## Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON (*video*)

Luke 2:28–32

A SYMBOL OF GOD’S CARE FOR THE EARTH

ANTHEM

“U to Vrijejeme Godista”

arr. Antun Celar

A Croatian Carol; quartet - Mitch, Sue, Kate, and Charlie Trigger

*English translation*

In this time of year peace comes into the world  
with the birth of the child, whose mother is the holy mother.

The angels announced it and sang a heavenly song  
Proclaiming praise of God and bringing peace to the peoples.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 52:7 (NRSVUE)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

John 1:1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

**Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS & MUSIC “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. David Clark Isele

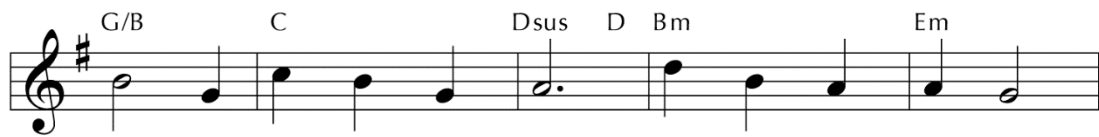
Sending

LIGHTING THE CHRISTINGLE

# Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple 148



1 Mar-y and Jo - seph came to the tem - ple brought the boy  
 2 An - na had prayed there, wid - owed, long wait - ing, wor - ship - ing  
 3 Sim - e - on sings now: God prof - fers bless - ing, bril - liant - ly



Je - sus, of - fered him there. Peo - ple were wait - ing  
 God by day and by night. Now she is prais - ing,  
 gild - ing dawn of his day. Light in the dark - ness,



want - ing to greet him; long had they sought him, so - lace for care.  
 filled with e - la - tion: here is God's prom - ise, Christ is her light.  
 nev - er ex - tin - guished, Light of all na - tions, light up our way.

This text retells the story in Luke 2:22–39, usually called the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, which took place forty days after his birth. Mary, Joseph, and the Christ-child encounter there two devout people, Anna and Simeon, who identify this baby as the promised Messiah.

TEXT: Andrew Pratt, 1994  
 MUSIC: David Haas, 1985  
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 Music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

EVENING HYMN  
 5.5.5.4.D

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*Please extinguish your candle and continue to hold your Christingle,  
 taking it with you after the postlude.*

## POSTLUDE

### "In Sweet Rejoicing"

Linda Dover, organist

by J.S. Bach

## GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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