



December 2, 2018
9:30 and 11:00 AM

Order of Worship

Please silence your cell phone.

THE GATHERING AND QUIET PREPARATION

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Arthur Harris

*THE CAROL NO. 240

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary J. Scifres, adapted

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

People: For God is with us, smiling upon us with love.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

People: For Christ has saved us from our enemies, our sins, and our fears.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

People: For God’s Spirit shines upon us, giving light when the nights are longest.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

People: For we worship a God of hope.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9:30) Kim and Graham Bowyer

(11:00) Chloe and Evan Burkett

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Sung to the tune *Ellacombe*

**On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner’s eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!**

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THE TIME OF WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

The Ritual of Friendship folder is located at the center aisle; please sign and pass.

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THE SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:5-20

(Pew Bible pg. 933)

This is God’s living Word for God’s living people. ~ **“Thanks be to God!”**

THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY

Lux: the Dawn from on High
Chancel Choir and Orchestra

Dan Forrest

- I. Illuminare
- II. Lux in tenebris
- III. The Sun Never Says
- IV. Gloria in excelsis
- V. Creator of the Stars of Night

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THE HOMILY

The Voices of Advent:
“Zechariah”
(Hushed by an Angel)
Rev. Elbert Dulworth

***THE CAROL NO. 206** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

***THE BENEDICTION AND PERIOD OF SILENCE**

Please remain quietly in your pew during the recession of the clergy.

***THE POSTLUDE**

“O Tannenbaum”

arr. Arthur Harris

*Congregation Standing

***Seating of Worshipers

We Welcome All Visitors and are glad you have chosen to worship with us. A special gift is available at the Welcome Center for those visiting with us for the first time. We invite you to participate in the life and ministries of this church. Please come again!

If you have difficulty seeing the worship bulletin or hymns, large-print orders of worship and hymnals are available. **Our Sanctuary is equipped with a T-coil hearing system.** Hearing assistance devices are also available for use during worship. **Shawls** are available for worshipers who are chilly in the Sanctuary. **Quiet Time Activities** are available for children who worship with their parents. Please ask an usher for assistance.

The Liturgist is Rev. Suzanne Walls.

The Poinsettias are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in honor and memory of loved ones. A full listing will be printed on December 23.

The Missions Candle is lit in loving memory of Harold Stanton by his family.

About the Music

Lux: the Dawn From on High is Dan Forrest's third major work for chorus and orchestra (after *Requiem For the Living* and *Jubilate Deo*). This five-movement work explores various facets of *Lux* (Latin for "light") in texts ranging from ancient liturgical chant to scripture to modern secular love poetry. The music of *Lux*, written in 2018, was inspired thematically and spiritually by these profound texts; visually by the light in the Reims Cathedral in France and at the Poulnabrone Dolmen in Ireland; and musically by a variety of musical sources from ancient chant to modern minimalist composers.

The first movement offers the promise of future light, and the hope of dawn is repeatedly heard in the text and evoked by the music. The second movement uses contrasting musical meters and keys to portray its text about light courageously shining in darkness. This movement finishes somewhat open-ended, not with a glib ending, reflecting the nature of light that must continue to shine through darkness. The third movement flashes ahead to today, seeing the sun as a metaphor for unconditional love that "lights the whole sky." The fourth movement continues the "light in the sky" motif with a joyful, jazz-influenced setting of the "Gloria in excelsis" text from the scriptural nativity story. The fifth movement closes out the "day" with an ancient evening hymn, presented as a solo, then unison, then in increasingly complex canons, before a closing section provides closure and unity between these multiple facets of light.

Dan Forrest was guest composer at our Composer Festival in 2013.



BIRMINGHAM FIRST
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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