

THE
TRUE LIGHT
COMING
INTO THE WORLD

CHRISTMAS EVE
2018



WELCOME

Merry Christmas! Tonight, we join with choirs of angels in singing our Savior's birth. Jesus Christ, the Lord, who was foretold by the prophets, entered his world as a frail infant. Through song and scripture, we remember the story of his long-awaited advent, as we look ahead in faith to his return.

Children are welcome in this service, but our nursery is open to nursing mothers and children ages 0-2 years.

A Wreath

A WREATHED garland of deserved praise,
Of praise deserved, unto Thee I give,
I give to Thee, who knowest all my ways,
My crooked winding ways, wherein I live,—
Wherein I die, not live; for life is straight,
Straight as a line, and ever tends to Thee,
To Thee, who art more far above deceit,
Than deceit seems above simplicity.
Give me simplicity, that I may live,
So live and like, that I may know Thy ways,
Know them and practice them: then shall I give
For this poor wreath, give Thee a crown of praise.

Source:

Herbert, George. *The Works of George Herbert in Prose and Verse*.
New York: John Wurtele Lovell, 1881. 289.

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2018

Prelude

(All music by permission CCLI #2054302)

**Please silence your cell phones at this time.*

All On A Starry Night - *Performed by Adult Choir.*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The lighting of Advent candles depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. Each candle will be lit in succession with the scripture readings.

Scripture Reading & Candle Lighting - Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1867. Music: Lewis Redner, 1868.

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
Our Lord, Emmanuel!

Scripture Reading & Candle Lighting - Luke 2:1, 3-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

O Holy Night

Words: Placide Cappeau, 1847. Translated by John S. Dwight. Music: Adolphe Adam, 1874.

O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining,
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees;
O hear the angel voices.
O night divine!
O night when Christ was born;
O night divine!
O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love, and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name, all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord!
O praise his name forever.
Noel, Noel,
O night, O night divine!
Noel, Noel,
O night, O night divine!
Noel, Noel,
O night, O holy night!

Scripture Reading & Candle Lighting - Luke 2:8-16

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

O Come All Ye Faithful

Words & Music: John F. Wade, 1743; translated by Frederick Oakeley, 1841.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!”

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Scripture Reading & Candle Lighting - Matthew 2:1-11

² Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

What Child Is This

Words: William C. Dix, 1871. Music: Traditional English melody, 16th century.

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

Children's Sermon

Tim Hayse

Scripture Reading - John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Lighting Of The Christ Candle

Please pass the light along as its shared with you.

Silent Night

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818; translated by John F. Young, 1863. Music: Franz Gruber 1818.

Led by our Children's Choir, directed by Harmony Smith.

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.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!
Jesus Lord, at thy birth!

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

*Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840;
Arr. William H. Cummings, 1855.*

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Refrain

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by,
Born that men no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Refrain

Dismissal

*Please gather outside as we send paper lanterns into the sky, symbolizing Christ's light in the
Darkness.*

POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Darden by Dale Anderson
Kelly Amanda Kaswinkel by Karl & Shirley Kaswinkel
Ardith Jett (Mother) and Robert Jett (Father) by Holly Schackow
David & Karl Jett (Brothers) by Holly Schackow

COME WORSHIP WITH US

We worship every Sunday at 10:30AM and welcome you to join us.

Important Deadline for Year-End Giving

As we approach year's end, we would like to remind you of important federal tax regulations: To claim tax-deductible contributions for the 2018 tax year, contribution checks must be postmarked by December 31st.

