

Bethel United Methodist Church

December 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

GREETING

PRELUDE: *"Carol of the Bells"* presented by the Youth Music Ministry Bell Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Alison Parsell

Leader: This is the night we have waited for.

PEOPLE: ***This is the most beautiful night of the year.***

Leader: It is a night of shepherds, stars and stables.

PEOPLE: ***It's a night when a baby cries for humble people everywhere.***

Leader: For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son given...

PEOPLE: ***And He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

OPENING CAROL:

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Bridget Knutsen

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.

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. O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER: ***O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Prince of Peace," and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love.***

Touch us – touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CHRISTMAS OFFERING:

"Carol of the Children"

by John Rutter

Presented by Olivia, John Roman and Fiona Nehrbas

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Ray Davis

SOLO

"He Made a Way In a Manger"

Logan Shuttleworth

SECOND LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

Jim Penuel

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Keith Parsell

*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.*

*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 angles the great glad tiding tell;
Where meek souls will receive him still, our Lord Emmanuel!*

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Ray Davis

CAROL

"What Child is This?"

Logan Shuttleworth

*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?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laude, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laude, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Jim Penuel

SOLO

"O Holy Night"

Bridget Knutsen

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

Ray Davis

CAROL

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

Logan Shuttleworth

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

Jim Penuel

CAROL

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Keith Parsell

*It came upon the 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.*

*For lo! The days are hastening 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 whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

SEVENTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Ray Davis

CAROL

"Joy to the World"

Bridget Knutsen

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love*

MESSAGE:

"Singing to the Newborn King"

Jim Penuel

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord is with you.

PEOPLE: *And also with you.*

Leader: Lift up your hearts:

PEOPLE: *We give thanks to the Lord our Savior.*

Leader: It is just, right and our privilege that we shall at all times, in all places, and on this Holy night, give thanks to You Almighty Father. For you have sent Your light into the world in the form of a tiny Child, fragile and vulnerable, Who grew to be the very Light of light, full of grace and truth, revealing Your awesome glory. O Lord, on this night of miracle and mystery, we do not kneel at Your table because of our own merits; because without You we are broken and incomplete. But in Jesus Christ, You have revealed Yourself to us with mercy and forgiveness. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. And now You have invited us to feast as guests at Your table. Gladly we come. Turn our darkness into light, our sorrow into joy unspeakable; fill our emptiness with Your Presence; that we may grow into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP

SOLO

"The Lord's Prayer"

Keith Parsell

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CLOSING CAROL:

"Silent Night"

Logan Shuttleworth

*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.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Ding, Dong Merrily On High" by Young