



The Worship of God

December 24, 2020

COME, CHRISTMAS . . .

Christmas Eve

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

PRELUDE: Christmas Pastorale Charles Callahan
Diana Kirkpatrick, organist; Christopher Ellis, violin
Ave Maria J.S. Bach/Charles Gounod
O Come, O Come Emmanuel Traditional French/arr. McDonald and Nelson
Christopher Ellis, violin; Amy Shortt, piano

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Brenda and Wayne Cotton

CAROL: DIX

“Light A Candle Bright and Tall”

Light a candle bright and tall for a Love which knows no end.
Love that comes to one and all. Fear and hatred to upend.
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Love, to us, we pray.

Light a candle bright and tall for the Hope within our world.
Hope that heard the ages' call as the stars and planets whirled.
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.

Light a candle bright and tall for the Joy this season brings.
Joy like fountains brimming full. Through our world now let it ring!
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.

Light a candle bright and tall for the Peace we wish to know.
Peace on Earth for great and small God's Good News to us bestows.
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Peace, to us, we pray.

Light a candle bright and tall for the Christ we greet today.
Christ has come, our all in all. With the angels, let us say:
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.

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THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION: “The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon” arr. Michael Clawson

The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel. For all to see there was a star shining in the East, beyond them far. And to the earth it gave great light and it continued both day and night.

Erin Dugai and Sarah Summers, soloists; Chris Ellis, violinist

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7
The Epistle Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ANTHEM: "Still, Still, Still" Austrian Carol/arr. Norman Luboff
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping. Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth. Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number, watch you as you sweetly slumber. Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-20 Ramsey Ward

THE INNKEEPER Chuck Taylor

THE WISE MAN David Goodman

THE SHEPHERD Andrew Robillard

MEDITATION: "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" Robert McGimpsey

Sweet little Jesus Boy, they made you be born in a manger. Sweet little holy child, we didn't know who you was. Didn't know you'd come to save us Lord, to take our sins away. Our eyes was blind, we couldn't see. We didn't know who you was. Long time ago you was born, born in a manger low. Sweet little Jesus Boy, the world treat you mean, Lord, treat me mean, too. But that's how things is down here. We don't know who you is. You done told us how we is trying. Master, you done showed us how even when you was dying. Just seems like we can't do right. Look how we treated you. But please, Sir, forgive us, Lord. We didn't know twas you. Sweet little Jesus Boy, born a long time ago. Sweet little holy child. And we didn't know who you was.

Jackson Baldwin, soloist

THE HOMILY "Come, Christ . . ." Dr. Wright

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

SOLO: Gesu Bambino Pietro Yon

When blossoms flower amid the snows upon a winter night, was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light. The angels sang. The shepherds sang. The grateful earth rejoiced. And at His blessed birth, the stars their exultation voiced. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night That gave the world the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light. Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell! From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light. King of love and light.

Chase Joyner, soloist; Chris Ellis, violinist

As we celebrate communion together, you are invited to have something to eat and drink, whatever represents for you the body and blood of Christ. The minister will invite you to eat in memory of Christ's body broken for you and to drink in memory of Christ's blood shed for you.

As you eat the bread and drink the cup, offer a prayer for family and friends. Pray for people with special needs, for all who sorrow or are lonely, for everyone who is hungry and homeless, and for each one who needs assurance of God's love. After you have celebrated communion, offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the joys of this Christmas season, for the generous spirit of neighbors, for the love of family and friends, for this church and all it means to your life and this community, and for God's gift of himself to us all.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:1-14

THE RITUAL OF LIGHT

The lighting of candles symbolizes the coming of Jesus who said, "I am the Light of the World." and is a reminder that we spread his light to all humankind. You are invited to light one or many candles as this carol is sung. To symbolize our sharing of the light with the world, raise your candles high for the singing of the final stanza of "Silent Night."

CAROL: "Silent Night" STILLE NACHT/arr. Mark Patterson

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, 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, 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, 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!

UNISON PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

O God, having celebrated this moment with you and with each other, and with hearts made warm and wills made strong through bread and cup, enable us to reflect the love of Christ in our hearts. Help us to celebrate his birth in gratitude, in unselfish love and cheerful service, that it may be a blessing to us and an offering of thanksgiving to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CAROL: "Joy to the World" Antioch

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE: Angels We Have Heard on High

Hugo Gehrke

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright <i>Senior Minister</i>	Elizabeth Edwards <i>Associate Minister</i>	Amy Shortt <i>Minister of Music</i>
Chris Ellis <i>Violinist</i>	Ramsey Ward <i>Lay Reader</i>	Diana Kirkpatrick <i>Organist</i>
Sarah Summers <i>Soprano</i>	Erin Dugai <i>Alto</i>	Jackson Baldwin <i>Baritone/Bass</i>
Chuck Taylor <i>Innkeeper Monologue</i>	David Goodman <i>Wise Man Monologue</i>	Andrew Robillard <i>Shepherd Monologue</i>