



# Christmas Eve

7 p.m. | December 24, 2023

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

Christmas Eve | How does a weary world rejoice?

*We make room*

READ Luke 2:1-20

FROM THE ARTIST | Hannah Garrity

Dr. Christena Cleveland published a book in 2023 called, *God is a Black Woman*.<sup>8</sup> In it, she shares her powerful testimony describing her journey to meet the Black Madonnas carved centuries ago from lava rock. This resonates with my lifelong yearning for Mother God.

Recently, I was standing at The Dwelling at Richmond Hill.<sup>9</sup> The former slave quarters are open and offered for visitation. After our tour, the idea that one should remove their shoes before entering this holy haven came up. Our tour group was all white people and we discussed this idea from a theoretical standpoint. But earlier, before we entered, I felt it. I was holding a seltzer water can from lunch and felt incredibly rude entering the space with it, so, without understanding, I backtracked and placed my purse and the can outside. I knew not why. After the tour, in our discussion about shoes, our white tour guide mentioned that Black members of the staff felt a great reverence, a holy presence at The Dwelling. The space held the presence of God; it was like entering a sanctuary.

I remember the same feeling when I was young, touring the slave quarters at Monticello.<sup>10</sup> But now, listening to the Richmond Hill staff testimony, I understood these spaces in a new way, with a reverence for the God-like presence of the Black mother in the depths of oppression.

In this painting, Black Mother God has asked her daughter Mary to hold the role of surrogate for the pregnancy of Infant Creator. Mary has carried the child to term. She has given birth. God embraces Mary as well as the Holy Infant in gratitude. For without Mary's surrogacy, the incarnation could not be.

PRAY

Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image on the left. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, offering a silent or spoken prayer to God.

<sup>8</sup> *God is a Black Woman*, by Christena Cleveland. (New York: HarperOne, 2022).

<sup>9</sup> Richmond Hill is an ecumenical fellowship, residence and urban retreat center in Richmond, VA. On its campus lie the remains of a historic enslaved dwelling. The remains are currently undergoing restoration efforts in order to become a place of learning, reflection, and prayer. Learn more here: [richmond.com/opinion/columnists/williams-richmond-hill-seeks-to-uncover-buried-truths-of-enslavement-at-its-site-as-a/article\\_7b21c63f-3e00-5c86-9e2d-0197ab4deee1.html](https://richmond.com/opinion/columnists/williams-richmond-hill-seeks-to-uncover-buried-truths-of-enslavement-at-its-site-as-a/article_7b21c63f-3e00-5c86-9e2d-0197ab4deee1.html)

<sup>10</sup> Monticello, VA, was the primary plantation of Thomas Jefferson, a Founding Father and the third president of the United States.

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**Hymns + Songs** | Pages are listed for the printed bulletin

Numbers (#) are listed for music in the *Lift Up Your Hearts* (red) hymnal

**Bold Print** | Speak or sing together in unison.

✧ Please rise in body or in spirit.



New Guest Connection

# Christmas Eve

7 p.m. | December 24, 2023

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

## Thought for Reflection

“For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning—not home but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last.”

— **Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat***

## Welcome + Announcements

**Prelude** | *Angels We Have Heard on High*, arr. by William Himes

## ✠ Call to Gather

Joy comes to the world this night—  
**through our God who sets aside glory  
to become as hopeful and as helpless as we are.**  
Hope comes to the world this night—  
**in Jesus who embraces the poor as family  
to bring justice for those who are oppressed.**  
Peace comes to the world this night—  
**through the Spirit who reconciles the divided  
and tears down walls of hate.**  
Love comes to the world this night—  
**through the birth of a child who will change our lives  
and lead us toward God’s blessed Light!**

✠ **Congregational Carol** | “Love Has Come,” pg. 8

## The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Immanuel, God-with-us,  
with eyes open, hearts softened, minds listening, and spirits full,  
we rejoice that you interrupt what we have in mind this night  
in order to bring into being something more than we dare imagine.  
(*Light the Christ Candle.*)



**May the light of Christ shine bright this evening—  
turning the darkness away and bringing hope to our waiting hearts!**

✠ **Gathering Hymn** | “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” pg. 9 (*hymnal*, #80)

✠ **Prayer of Confession and Promise of Ever-Present Grace**

Be near us this night, O God of Compassion and Hope.

**Be near us, as we bring our foolish lives,  
our damaging words,  
and our poor choices to your heart.**

Be near us and touch us with your life-giving mercy.

**We sing of the one who was away in a manger, O God of New Life,  
but we quickly ignore the cries of little ones who are forgotten.**

**We imagine the holy family was as well-off as we are,  
but we forget they are the relatives of the poor and dispossessed around us.**

You offer gifts of wonder and grace to us, O God,  
but how silently we use them in our words and in our lives.

**Come to us once again, O Child of Bethlehem, give us new life and hope.**

May we join with the angels in singing songs of joy,  
as we bring healing to the broken and hope to the bruised.

**May we open the doors of our hearts to those searching for refuge,  
as they journey to escape fear and anguish.**

May we see each person as precious in your eyes, as well as in ours,  
as the One whose lowly birth we celebrate this night:

**Jesus, our brother and kin.**

*A Time for Silent Confession*

Here in the silence of these moments, in the glow of candles as well as grace,  
we are offered the good news.

**This is the night God comes to us to remind us that we are never alone,  
and that we are loved and cherished as children of the Divine.**

✠ **Musical Response** | Refrain from “Angels We Have Heard on High” (*hymnal*, #82)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*



## ✕ Sharing of Christ's Peace & Compassion

On this Holy Night, may each of us experience the peace that passes all understanding—  
and in doing so we pray that we may experience Christ, the peace of the world.

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

✕ **Musical Response** | *Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*, arr. by Cathy Moglebust

**Old Testament Reading** | Isaiah 2:2-7

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Choir Anthem** | *Night of Silence*, arr. by John Ferguson

**Gospel Reading** | Luke 2:1-20

**The Prompting** | *Then and There?* | Rev. W. Robert Martin, III

**Musical Meditation** | *O Holy Night*, by Adolphe Adam

**A Christmas Eve Litany of Light**

In a little town, known for nothing much, God's holy child was born.

**With rising hope, we welcome the coming Light!**

By the faint glow of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way.

**With rising hope, we welcome the coming Light!**

Shown by a courtyard fire, the open stable door was seen.

**With rising hope, we welcome the coming Light!**

Warm breath of resting beasts, kindly sparkled in their eyes.

**With rising hope, we welcome the coming Light!**

In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

**With rising hope, we welcome the coming Light!**

There Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us-Now.

**With abundant joy, we welcome the Light into our world!**

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✧ Following the *Sharing of Christ's Peace and Compassion*, Kindergartners and younger children are welcome to join activities in the Lower Level Children's Area.

Angels opened the doors of heaven, and sang, "Glory to God in the heights!"

**With abundant joy, we welcome the Light into our world!**

Shepherds saw the sky ablaze, left their sheep and came to see.

**With abundant joy, we welcome the Light into our world!**

In the darkest winter night, God set a brilliant star.

**With abundant joy, we welcome the Light into our world!**

Magi from the East divined God's shining sign.

**With abundant joy, we welcome the Light into our world!**

And on this Holy Night, with joy, we greet the child.

**With open arms welcome this Child of Light into our midst and into our hearts.**

✠ **Congregational Carol** | "O Come All Ye Faithful," pg. 10 (*hymnal*, #76)

## **Worship in Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** | *Sussex Carol*, arr. by Elaine Hagenberg

**Musical Response** | "What Child Is This," v. 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

## **Doxology for a Weary World**

CRANHAM ("In the Bleak Midwinter")

Text: Anna Strickland (2023)

Music: Gustav Holst (1906)

Praise the one Cre - a - tor,    praise the Liv-ing    Christ

Praise the Ho-ly    Spi - rit,    praise both day and    night

Praise when you are    wea - ry,    praise in times of    joy

Praise, my soul, with    all your strength    and your heart    and

voice

## **Christmas Eve Prayer**

✠ **Congregational Carol & Candle Lighting** | "Silent Night," pg. 11 (*hymnal*, #85)

***A candle lighter will light a single candle from the Christ Candle,  
symbolic of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world,  
then pass the light until all candles are lit.  
Hold the lit candles upright as others light their candles.***

✠ **Benediction**

*You may extinguish your candle*

✠ **Sending Hymn** | “Joy to the World,” pg. 12 (*hymnal*, #92)

**Postlude** | *Improvisation on Christmas Carols*, by Abby Chen

## Today’s Worship Participants

Rev. W. Robert Martin, III, pastor

Patti Benson, worship Leader

Austen Wilson, *director of music ministry*

Resound! Handbell Choir | Laura Kastens, *assistant director of handbell ministries*

Brass Ensemble | Lee Rabe, *assistant director of instrumental ministries*

Logos Choir | Abby Chen, *organist and accompanist*

Taylor Dengler-Schlicher, *soloist*

*Candle Lighters* | The Benson Family

## Questions about Worship @ St. Andrew?

- **Welcome!** We are happy to have you join us today. If you would like more information about St. Andrew, please email [office@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:office@saintandrew-ic.org).
- Our worship services begin **in-person and online at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings**, followed by Sunday School and Adult Christian Education offerings from September to April and a variety of After Worship activities from May to August. *The service usually begins with Welcome & Announcements a few minutes before 9:30 a.m.*
- All ages are welcome in our worship services. Worship materials for all ages are available in **The Maker’s Toolbox** outside the north entrance to the Sanctuary.
- Large print hymnals, bibles, and bulletins also are available outside the Sanctuary doors. A T-Coil hearing assist loop is also available for those with this feature on their hearing aids.
- **Prayer Requests** may be written on a blue **Prayer Request Card** and placed in the offering plates as they are passed.
- Unless otherwise designated, gifts given to the weekly **offering**—either in the offering plates or through our website—support the annual church budget, including staff salaries, utilities, mission outreach, and all aspects of ministry at St. Andrew.
- To log into the **St. Andrew Connect** system, either download the **St. Andrew App** through the **App Store/Google Play** or visit [saintandrew.ccbchurch.com](http://saintandrew.ccbchurch.com).
- Permission to livestream the music in this service is from CCLI (#617801) and One License (A-711114).



# Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

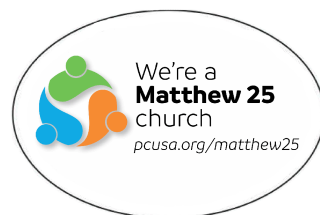
Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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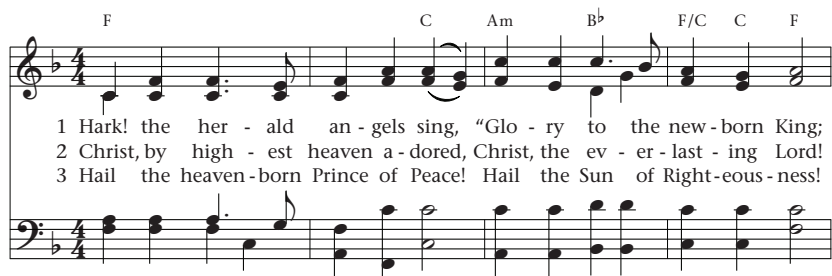


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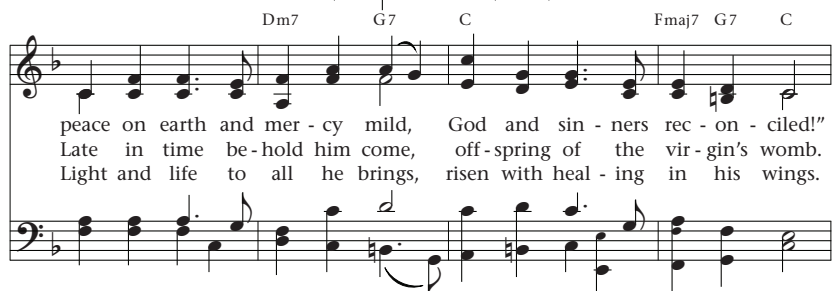
## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

F C Am B<sup>b</sup> F/C C F



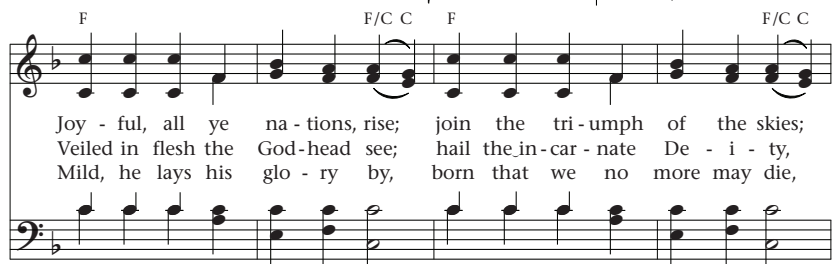
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Dm7 G7 C Fmaj7 G7 C



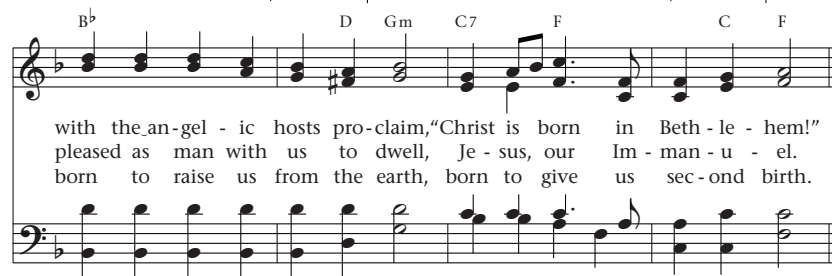
peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

F F/C C F F/C C



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

B<sup>b</sup> D Gm C7 F C F



with the an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain B<sup>b</sup> D Gm C7 F C7 F



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.

Music (MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7. D refrain 7.7): Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; adapt. William H. Cummings, 1856, P.D.

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Descant*



4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;  
G Am7 D G C G D

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 God of God, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;  
Em A D G D A7 D

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!  
lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove:  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;  
G Am G D Em D

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;  
"Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!"  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Words: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others, P.D.

Music (ADESTE FIDELES irregular): attr. John F. Wade, 1743; desc. © 1947 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin.  
Hope Publishing Company



# Silent Night! Holy Night



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God,  
 4 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star,

all is bright 'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child!  
 at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light, ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face  
 lend thy light; with the an - gels let us sing

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Sav - ior is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
 Al - le - lu - ia to our King: "Christ the Sav - ior is

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 birth! Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth!  
 born! Christ the Sav - ior is born."

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863, P.D.  
 Music (STILLE NACHT): Franz Gruber, 1818, P.D.

## Joy to the World

PSALM 98

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: let all their songs em -  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King. Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heaven and na - ture sing,

For another setting of Ps. 98 see 547

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719, P.D.

Music (ANTIOCH 8.6.8.6.6.8): Lowell Mason, 1848, P.D.