

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020

- Livestream at 7:00 pm on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HillsdaleFirstUMC> and on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRIHbHBj74jhHeLkO4gAs6A?> and on our church website <http://hillsdalefirstumc.com/>
- Available for phone-in recording at 7:00 pm @ 1-312-626-6799, provide meeting #394 134 739

Prelude

A Christmas Prelude

Ch. Callahan

Greeting

*We come tonight to hear the story of God's love cradled in a manger.
We come out of the deep night to see the light of Christ transform the world.*

Light the First Advent Candle

We set aside our worries and cast our eyes on the promise of hope that redeems us, renews us, renames us, and grafts us into the story of love that came down for you, me, and all the world. Come, let us worship.

Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

250

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Words by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848
Music by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849
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Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, we gather in this place because we know something extraordinary happened in the most ordinary of ways. Open our eyes to be enlightened by your love for us. Open our hearts to be stirred by the lowliness of our vision that seems too lofty to touch. Open our ears to hear your story once again and be moved to share it with the world. We come to see your light as you lighten our paths.

Light the Second Advent Candle

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

First Lesson – Isaiah 9:2-7 (responsively)

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land, **light has dawned.***

Light the Third Advent Candle

*You have made the nation great;
you have increased its joy.
They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,
as those who divide plunder rejoice.
As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,
the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.*

*Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned, fuel for the fire.*

*A child is born to us, **a son is given to us!**
and authority will be on his shoulders.
He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

Light the Fourth Advent Candle

*There will be vast authority and endless peace
for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it
with justice and righteousness
now and forever. **Amen.***

Song

Into the Darkness

1. Into the darkness of this world,
into the shadows of the night,
into this loveless place you came,
lightened our burdens, eased our pain,
and made these hearts your home.

Into the darkness once again,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love to make us whole;
come with your light to lead us on,
driving the darkness far from our souls.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

2. Into the longing of our souls,
into these heavy hearts of stone,
shine on us now your piercing light;
order our lives and souls aright
by grace and love unknown,
until in you our hearts unite.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love to make us whole;
come with your light to lead us on,
driving the darkness far from our souls.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

3. O Holy Child, Emmanuel,
Hope of the ages, God with us,
visit again this broken place
till all the earth declares your praise
and your great mercies own.
Now let your love be born in us.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come in your glory; take your place,
Jesus, the name above all names.
We long to see you face to face.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

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Second Lesson – Micah 5:2-5a

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

230

1. 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.

2. 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 all on earth!

3. 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.

4. 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!

Words: Phillip Brooks, ca. 1868. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1868. Public Domain

Third Lesson – Luke 2:1-7

Light the Christ Candle

Carol

What Child Is This

219

1. 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 laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
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.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Words by William C. Dix, 1865. Music: 16th Cent. English Melody. Public Domain

Fourth Lesson – Luke 2:8-16 *This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.*

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

238, vs 1-3

1. 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!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

3. 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!

Words: traditional French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862; Public Domain
Music: French carol melody; arr. by Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; Public Domain
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Message

Christmas – Retelling and Rejoicing

Song

Glory (Let There Be Peace)

1. One star, burns in the darkness,
shines with the promise,
Emmanuel.
One child, born in the stillness,
living within us,
Emmanuel.
We're singing: Glory, Glory.
Let there be peace. Let there be peace.
Singing: Glory, Glory.
Let there be peace. Let it start in me.
2. One voice, speaks for the voiceless,
hope for the hopeless,
Emmanuel.
One love, brings us together,
now and forever,
Emmanuel.
We're singing: Glory, Glory.
Let there be peace. Let there be peace.
Singing: Glory, Glory.
Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

Do not be afraid.
His love is strong enough to save us.
Nothing stands in the way
his love is strong enough to lead us.
Do not be afraid.
His love is strong enough to save us.
Nothing stands in the way
his love is strong enough to lead us.
Singing: Glory, Glory.
Let there be peace. Let there be peace.
Singing: Glory, Glory.
Let there be peace. Let it start with me.
Singing: Glory, Glory.
Let there be peace. Let there be peace.
Singing: Glory, Glory.
Let there be peace. Let it start in me.
Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

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Invitation for Offering

Music for Meditation

O Holy Night

A. Adam

Prayer

Prayers of the People

Candle Lighting

*Please take your candle, light it,
and know that wherever we are individually,
in spirit we are together in the sharing of this light,
and together in the light that was born into the world on this day.*

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

239

1. 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.

2. 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!

3. 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.

4. 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!

Words by Joseph Mohr, trans. by John F. Young
Music: Franz Grüber, 1818. Public Domain

Blessing

For unto us has been born a Savior, Christ the Lord.

For unto us we have the promise of new life in Christ.

For unto us we have the hope of salvation and the promise of new life.

*For unto us we are challenged to live and grow in new ways,
to seek justice and to become peacemakers in the path of the Prince of Peace.*

For unto us a child has been born, a Son given to us, and authority rests on his shoulders.

*For unto us we follow the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace,
Jesus the Christ, and we look to the world and to our future with hope.*

Ringing the Bell

Carol

Joy to the World

246, vs 1, 4

1. 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 nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing.

4. 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, and wonders of his love.

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719
Music: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848
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Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

J. S. Bach

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Merry Christmas

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