

"Come Christmas God"

*When it's cold and wet
And we long for the light
Come Christmas.*

*Come to bring warmth and joy
To inn-keepers and travelers
To shepherds and kings;
Come to bring hope and peace
To refugees and security forces.
Come to comfort the lonely
And wipe the tear from the cheek
Of those who are sad.*

*Immanuel—God with us
Let your light shine
Into the dark recesses
Of our minds and our cities.
Let your warmth
Bring forth harvests of joy.
Let your peace
Enter the hearts
Of those who struggle and plot
For power and advantage over others.*

*Come, Christmas God
Christ Child of Bethlehem
Spirit of wonder
Be born in us and your world
Once more
That joy may be shared
Peace proclaimed
And love abound.*

*Kate McIlhagga
Shine on, Star of Bethlehem*



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Merry Christmas!

December 25, 2011

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

"Come Christmas God"

source: Kate McIlhagga

*HYMN 125

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

tune: Gloria

**Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains**

Chorus:

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

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song.**

Chorus

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
God, our world now entering.**

Chorus

*LITANY

source: Peter Trow,
Shine on Star of Bethlehem

One: Give thanks to God
for the light has come:

Many: **a light in a dark stable,
a light for darkened lives,
a light which shines in every place,
the light of eternal truth.**

One: Give thanks to God
for the truth has come:

Many: **truth that challenges the proud,
truth that lifts up the lonely,
truth that brings justice and hope,
the truth of eternal life.**

One: Give thanks to God
for the life has come:

Many: **the life of God in a new born child,
life vulnerable and precious,
life which conquers death's power,
the new life of the Kingdom of God.**

We will sing carols as we share Communion. Although we've printed some lyrics (below), we invite you to use the words most familiar to you...



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**O come, all you faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come now, O come now
to Bethlehem.
Come and behold the
ruler of all angels:
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him:
Christ is born!**



**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.**

***HYMN 144**

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

tune: Mendelssohn

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye saints arise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angel host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring!"***

**Hail the Bearer of God's peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life our Savior brings,
Ris'n with radiant, healing wings.
Mildly laying glory by,
Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring!"***

READING FROM TRADITION

One: May we be struck by the wisdom of these words and marked by hearing them.

Many: **For within story lies meaning, and within meaning, the wisdom for which we seek.**

Gretta Vosper

One: Our Christmas story speaks to our yearning for peace: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:8-15)

From Buddhism we hear this call to peace: Victory breeds hatred, for the defeated live in pain. Happily live the peaceful, giving up victory and defeat. (Dhammapada 201)

One: With words that illumine,

Many: **May we hear the Word.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Treasure Shields Redmond

FAMILY STORY

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
read by: Katherine HawkerSelf

Dr. Seuss

RESPONSE

"Welcome Christmas"

source: Seuss, A. Hague

**Fah who for-aze! Dah who dor-aze!
Welcome Christmas, Come this way!
Fah who for-aze! Dah who dor-aze!
Welcome Christmas, Christmas Day.**

**Welcome, Welcome! Fah who rah-mus!
 Welcome, Welcome Dah who dah-mus.
 Christmas day is in our grasp
 So long as we have hands to clasp
 Fah who for-aze! Dah who dor-aze!
 Welcome Christmas! Bring your cheer
 Fah who for-aze! Dah who for-aze!
 Welcome all Who's Far and near**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Believing that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer,
 After each expression, the worship leader will say: Lord in your Mercy.
 And the people may respond: Hear our prayer.*

Many: **Most compassionate Life-giver,
 may we honour and praise you:
 may we work with you to establish your new order of
 justice, peace and love.
 Give us what we need for growth,
 and help us, through forgiving others,
 to accept forgiveness.
 Strengthen us in the time of testing,
 that we may resist all evil.
 For all the tenderness,
 strength and love are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

source: William Wallace (New Zealand)

TABLE FELLOWSHIP

INVITATION AND COMMUNION PRAYER (sung response)

One: Gathering around the table as we celebrate new life morning,
 we remember so many stories shared around tables;
 tables where bread is broken and cup is poured out,
 where families gather and generations share,
 where stories are remembered, refined, reshaped.

Many: *Congregational Refrain 756:* source: Berthier

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis deo!
 Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!**

One: Gathering around the table on this Holy day
 we remember the story of the Sacred daring to share our life,
 the story of the holy donning human flesh and dwelling among us,
 a story that is at once both ethereal and earthly.

Many: *Congregational Refrain 756:* source: Berthier

One: Gathering around the table on this Christmas day,
 we break the bread and touch the mystery
 that in our brokenness we become whole;
 we fill the cup and remember the abundance
 discovered in each new sharing of our sacred stories.

Many: *Congregational Refrain 756:* source: Berthier

One: Together, around the table, we pray:

Many: **Come, holy Spirit, come.
 Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.
 Bless all of us in our eating and drinking
 that our eyes might be opened,
 that we might recognize the Spirit rising in our midst
 indeed, in one another. Come, holy Spirit, come.**

**Away in a manger,
 no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus
 laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the sky
 looked down where he lay,
 The little Lord Jesus,
 asleep on the hay.**



**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 in a manger, Emmanuel.**



**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, the angels sing,
 is Christ, God's holy offering.
 Haste, haste your praise to bring,
 the babe, the child of Mary.**

http://www.creativequilts.com... robert_kauffman_fabrics
 http://lhp.blogspot.com/_RC8TTEUAGQ/TQK-UyUcGf/AAAAAACAC07/HAL_9h88Kw/s1600/L_roos_leea.jpg

Joining us for the first time?

In a word: *Welcome*

Whoever you are, wherever you are on the journey, you are truly welcome here. We are human and fallible, but utterly committed to God's extravagant welcome!

Worship Rules: *Enjoy*

Some people clap, some don't. Some babies make noise, some don't. Some people read music, some people look at pictures. We stand and either speak or sing together occasionally, but do what feels right for you. Likewise with clothes; some people wear suits with sneakers, some wear hockey uniforms with ruby slippers. Whatever style is yours, it's safe here. *Enjoy your time with us!*

Coffee: *Your choice*

Bring your own or fill up with the pot in the Fireside Room. Bring it in to worship, or not; decaf or regular. *It's your choice!*

Difference: *Bring it on!*

We don't simply tolerate our difference, we celebrate the wonder of the sacred in our differences... not only age, race, gender, ability, and orientation, but politics and theology too!

Please join us again...

- New Year's Day @ 8³⁰am & 11am
- Church School begins again on Jan 8 @ 9⁴⁵am.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The congregation is invited to come forward by the center aisle, taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup, placing an offering in the plates beside the table, and returning to the pews by the side aisles.

***RESPONSE** "Go Tell it on the Mountain" source: traditional
 Chorus (repeat)

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
 Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** source: Paul J. Flucke, Bread for the Journey
 Many:

**Out of the noise and glitter and ho-ho-ho
 of the world's Christmas,
 we have come away into this quiet hour of presence.
 Help us to discover here the true meaning and joy
 that lie beneath the surface of the holy day.
 Help us to see in the baby the man that Jesus became,
 to test our lives by teachings and example.
 Enable us to see beyond the human Jesus
 to the incredible love reaching out to us through him,
 giving wisdom and power for the journeys of our lives.
 Amen.**

***HYMN** "I Heard the Bells" tune: Waltham
 words: Longfellow



I heard the bells on Christ - mas Day, their
 And thought how, as the day had come, the
 Till ring - ing, sing - ing on its way the
 And in de - spair I bowed my head "there
 Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God



old fam - il - iar car - ols play, and wild and sweet the
 bel - fries of all Christ - en dom had rolled a - long th'un -
 world re - volved from night to day, a voice, a chime, a
 is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong and
 is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the wrong shall fail, the



words re - peat of peace on earth, good will to men.
 bro - ken song of peace on earth, good will to men.
 chant sub - lime of peace on earth, good will to men.
 mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."
 right pre - vail with peace on earth, good will to men."

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**