



Christmas Eve 4:00pm
24 December 2011

PRELUDE

"Carol of the Bells"
"Silent Night"

Claire Morris, piano
Ryann Wald, piano

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

source: HS

One: Grant us the courage to hope.

Hope for your presence, your promise, your peace.

Grant us the courage to make peace.

Peace in our hearts, our homes, our communities.

Grant us the courage to experience joy.

Joy in the face of apathy, of sorrow, of uncertainty.

Grant us the courage to share your love.

*Love for the unexpected challenge,
the vulnerable one, the presence of God.*

Peace, hope, joy and love.

Christmas comes to us once more.

*Hymn 132

"Joy to the World!"

source: Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;

Let earth its praises bring;

Let every heart prepare Christ room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

*CHRISTMAS LITANY

source: Adapt. C. Robinson

One: May our time together lead us to the peace of the season.

Many: May our hearts embrace the wonder of our story.

One: Like the wandering couple,

Many: May we find that our joys emerge from our trials.

One: Like the harried innkeeper,

Many: May we find ways to help others.

One: Like the lumbering beasts,

Many: May we be silent witnesses to awe.

One: Like the shepherds on the hill,

Many: May we not be afraid.

One: Like the journeying wise,

Many: May we have the courage to follow our stars.

One: Like the angels,

Many: May we cry peace to a troubled world.

One: May this season of peace and goodwill

nudge our world towards its ideals,

Many: Then will Christmas truly dawn.

*RESPONSE

"Jesus, Jesus"

source: Traditional

Jesus, Jesus, oh what a wonderful child!
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, the Child will bring.
Listen, to the angles sing: Glory, glory, glory!
Let the heavens ring!

CHOIR

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"
Youth Choir

source: Regency & Shayne

THE PAGEANT

INTRODUCTION: From whence our story comes.

HYMN

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 in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration: Christ is born!

THE STORY BEGINS: God with us.

HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And with all children now do dwell,
Give comfort to all exiles here,
And to the aching heart give cheer.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come within as love to dwell.

MARY AND JOSEPH: Begin the long journey.

HYMN

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.

INNKEEPER: Sends Mary and Joseph to the stable.

HYMN

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.

ANIMALS: Arrive and greet the baby.

We welcome you...

*We are pleased that you've chosen
to be with us this evening
as we celebrate
the joy of Christmas.*

Our Christmas hymns...

*While we treasure the language
and imagery of the New Century
Hymnal, we know that the
words we learned as children are
precious to us as well. We invite
you to sing the Christmas hymns
with whatever words are most
familiar and beloved for you.*

Special Thanks...

*Special thanks to our musicians!
Our Children's Choir, Youth Choir
and Young Instrumentalists.*

HYMN

Jesus, our brother, strong and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, strong and good.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS: Meet along the way.

HYMN

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!

SHARING THE NEWS: Shepherds and angels at the stable.

HYMN

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.

WISE ONES : Meet the star along the road.

HYMN

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

THE STAR: Shines from behind the stable.

HYMN

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, our praise to bring,
The babe, the child of Mary.

*The star shining
on the innkeepers shed;
Sunshine glistening
off the deafening cold of
winter snow;
Candles lit
in displays of solidarity
with those in mourning;
Give tangible witness
to the prophet's claim
that light shines in the darkness,
now and forever.
May we come to worship
in joyful celebration of the light.*

*We praise you, hidden God,
that in one most vulnerable
you have come to us
to speak your Word of love and life.*

*Touch us with unearthly joy,
like the singing of angels;
fill us with wonder,
like the eyes of children;
teach us to humble ourselves
before you,
like the worshiping magi.*

*May our journey to the manger
be only the beginning
of a lifetime of service to you.
Amen.*

Ruth Duck,
"Bread for the Journey"

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...

- Tonight @ 11pm: Candlelight, Classical Music, and Communion
- Tomorrow @ 11am: Family-friendly worship.
- New Year's Day @ 8³⁰am & 11am
- Church School begins again on Jan 8 @ 9⁴⁵am.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

The congregation is invited to share gifts for our shared ministry.

CHOIR

"Who Is This Child?"

source: arr. Donnelly & Strid

Children's Choir

PRAYER

source: H. Johnston

One: Dear God,

please give to us

the unquestioning faith of Mary

the tolerance of Joseph

the patience of the donkey

the kindness of the innkeeper

the reverence of the oxen

the joy of the angels

the obedience of the shepherds

the perseverance of the wise men

the Christ-child in our hearts today

*HYMN 134

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

source: Stille Nacht

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!

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE