

Christmas Eve
A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24, 2021
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PREWORSHIP MUSIC

In the Bleak Mid-Winter
I Wander as I Wander
*Grown Up Christmas List*¹
What Child is This?
*The Nativity*²

Dr. Troy Winemiller, Organist
Carole Caswell, Soprano
Gary Knisely, Tenor
Rachael Wertz, Soprano

PRELUDE

Nativite' (Demessieux)³

Dr. Troy Winemiller, Organist

WESTMINISTER CHIMES

GREETING

Rev. Laura C. Bair-Baker

INTRODUCTION TO LESSONS & CAROLS

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful
O come, all ye faithful; joyful and triumphant.
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him; born the king of angels.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

THE BIDDING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: *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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Pastor: Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath. Each one has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second is PEACE, the third is JOY, and the fourth is LOVE. The center candle is the Christ candle. (The candles are lit.)

Liturgist: "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

All people: *The baby's mother, Mary, named him Jesus. It is a name which means "he saves." Thank you, Jesus, for being the light in our darkness. Thank you, Jesus, for saving us. Happy Birthday, Jesus!*

SONG

Happy Birthday to You, Jesus
Happy birthday to you.
Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday, dear Jesus.
Happy birthday to you.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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CAROL

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold.
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from Heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels’ sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold -
When with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth, its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song, which now the angels sing.*

SECOND LESSON: Zechariah and Elizabeth

Luke 1:5-25

CAROL

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*O, come! O, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Day-Spring, come and cheer, our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

THIRD LESSON: Mary Receives a Visit

Luke 1:26-37

SPECIAL MUSIC

***Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*⁴**

Hand Chime Choir

FOURTH LESSON: Joseph

Matthew 1:18-24

CAROL

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

*Hark! The herald angels sing “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

FIFTH LESSON: A Bethlehem Birth

Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM

***Mary, Did You Know?*⁵**

**Chancel Choir
Cathy Rentzel, Alto Soloist**

SIXTH LESSON: Angels and Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

*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!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee: Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

SEVENTH LESSON: Light of the World

John 1:1-18

SPECIAL MUSIC

O, Holy Night

Gary Knisely, Tenor Soloist

HOMILY

Rev. Laura C. Bair-Baker

OFFERING

Liturgist: We’ve come to that special moment in our worship service when everyone pauses to consider what gift they will commit to the Lord – gifts of time, talent, and financial resources; gifts that are used for God’s saving work in the world.

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⁵ 1980 Brentwood Benson Music Publishing, Inc. Use with permission, CCLI license # 2205291

All people: *It IS a special moment! On this holy night, when we celebrate God coming into our lives and touching us with the most precious gifts of all, Jesus the Christ - we choose to respond by giving the very best we have.*

Liturgist: We can share our gifts of time and talent through the ministries of the church and by serving in our communities. The financial offerings shared tonight will be used to bring healing and hope through the ministries of this particular congregation, Starview United Church of Christ. Those may be placed in the offering plates located at each of the entrances and exits. So, in joy for the opportunity to participate in God's saving work, let us offer all we give with a prayer.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All people: *O Holy Child of Bethlehem, you are the hope for our hurting and broken world. We thank you, O God, for guiding us through the season of Advent and shining your light in the midst of our darkness. As your birth lit up the Bethlehem sky, continue to shine in our world by dispelling darkness, binding up the broken, and calling forth the faithful. Use our offerings of time, talent, and financial resources to serve those divine purposes. On this holiest of nights, make us willing as well, to welcome you as our Savior and Lord. We pray this in the name of our newborn King. Amen.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Pastor: We will now light our candles.

All people: *We light our candles remembering the baby born this night is Jesus, Light of the World.*

Pastor: We light our candles trusting that the Light will always overcome our darkness.

All people: *We light our candles in hope that the Light of Christ will be born again, in us tonight.*

Pastor: We light our candles eager for the Light to shine forth from us.

All people: *With our lit candles, we are promising to share the Light of the World, which overcomes the darkness.*

Pastor: As the lights are dimmed let us hold up our candles and sing...

HYMN

Silent Night

*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! 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!*

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES

BENEDICTION

Pastor: On this holy night, let us go forth to be "silent" no more.
With the angels, let us go forth singing, "Alleluia to our King!"
for Christ the Savior is born!

HYMN

Joy to the World

*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 Heaven, and nature sing!*

*Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy! Repeat! Repeat, the sounding joy.*

POSTLUDE

Antioch on Joy to the World (Mendelssohn) ⁶

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