



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service of Carols and Light Christmas Eve December 24, 2022

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

PRELUDES

The First Noel

arr. James Christensen

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Richard Willis; arr. Nigel Williams

Little Drummer Boy

The Champagne Flutes
Davis/Onorati/Simeone
Caitlin Omaboe-Mensah, soloist

O Holy Night

Traditional

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

arr. James Christensen

In the Bleak Mid-Winter (Hymn 36)

Elizabeth Campbell, soloist

What Child Is This?

arr. James Christensen

TOWER BELLS

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us come and celebrate that God is with us!

This is the night of the Holy Birth of Emmanuel!

Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

We open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, God's Love is here!

Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

Christ our Savior is born!

The Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace has come. Hallelujah! Amen!

FIRST LESSON

A Child Is to Be Born

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

*CAROL 40 (V.1-2)

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 us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

SECOND LESSON

Joseph and Mary Travel to Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

CAROL 44 (V.1-2)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

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.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*CAROL 25 (V.1-2)

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His 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 cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

*CAROL 23 (V.1-2)

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.

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.

MEDITATION

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

OFFERING

ANTHEM

Gabriel's Message

*Basque carol; arr. Alonso
Susan Charlton, flute*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"How blest among all women you shall be,
Whom ev'ry age will praise continually.
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

FIFTH LESSON

The Magi Visit the Messiah

Matthew 2:1-9

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem in Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

*CAROL 66 (V.1-2)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

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 night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

SIXTH LESSON

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-5, 14, 16, 18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made God known.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*CAROL 60 (V.1-4)

Silent Night, Holy Night

Susan Charlton, flute

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."

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.

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.

***BENEDICTION**

Dearest people who walked in darkness – have you seen the great light?
We who lived in deepest night, may we be filled with hope because of this brilliant sight:
Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.
The spread of his peace, joy and love will never end.
Therefore, go out into the world with wonder and awe before our God who never ceases to amaze,
and with joy because of the Spirit who never wearies, and with the love of Immanuel, God-with-us,
who is with you this holy night and evermore.

POSTLUDE

Carol of the Bells

Ukrainian Carol; arr. James Christensen

The poinsettias are given in memory of:

Hattie Sandt, mother of Shirley Van Norman,
by Jim & Shirley Van Norman

Dolly Fehnel, sister of Shirley Van Norman,
by Jim & Shirley Van Norman

Jacob and Margaret Van Norman, parents of Jim Van Norman,
by Jim & Shirley Van Norman

Joyce Parkansky, sister of Jim Van Norman,
by Jim & Shirley Van Norman

Sal Ritz, godfather of Jessica Van Norman,
by Donna Van Norman

Cindy Walters, friend of Donna Van Norman,
by Donna Van Norman

Beloved Family and Friends,
by Gloria Snyder

-continued-

Kevin Martin,
by Bud & Linda Martin
Loved Ones,
by Bill & Carol Schroeher
Our parents, Martin and Pat Puffpaff,
by Melanie Puffpaff and Marilyn Weir

~*~*~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel
Gloria Snyder, Organist
Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director
The Chancel Choir
Bill Schroeher, Sofia DeMotte, Caitlin Omaboe-Mensah, Luke McGloughlin, Shirley Keller, Bill Bartlett,
Liturgists

Champagne Flutes

Alaina Castrovinci, flute
Myra Cole, flute
Caroline Dawson, flute
Renée King, flute
Abby Lucas, flute/alto flute

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Please join us for a simple service in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 25 at 10:30am,
when we will give praise and hear the good news of Christ's birth.