



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service of Carols and Light Christmas Eve December 24, 2021

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

TOWER BELLS

WELCOME

PRELUDES

Il Est Né

French carol; arr. Ernie and Becky Brock
Susan Charlton, flute; Andrea Wittchen, harp

Prepare to Receive Him

Christmas Oratorio, J. S. Bach
Treble Voices of the Chancel Choir

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Huron carol; arr. Wittchen
Susan Charlton, flute; Andrea Wittchen, harp

Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies

Chinese hymn
Elizabeth Campbell, soprano; Andrea Wittchen, harp

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this silent night we ponder your mystery with Mary and Joseph.

We come seeking Christ's light.

On this holy night, we come with the shepherds to worship.

We come seeking Christ's light.

On this night of joy for the world, we sing praises with choirs of angels.

We come seeking Christ's light.

In the darkness of this night, we celebrate the Light of the World.

Christ's light shines for all!

FIRST LESSON

In the Beginning, God Gave Us Light

Genesis 1:1-10

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day", and the darkness he called "night". And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

*CAROL 41 (V.1)

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!

SECOND LESSON

A Great Light for the People is Propesied

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

ANTHEM

Christmas Peace Canon, incorporating *Dona Nobis Pacem* and *Silent Night*

arr. Jean Anne Shafferman

At Christmas time the angels sing a song filled with love for the tiny king,
a song of peace and harmony, a song of peace for you and me.

Dona nobis pacem.

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.

THIRD LESSON

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

*CAROL 16 (V.1 & 2)

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

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

"For know a blessed mother you shall be,
All generations praise continually,
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

FOURTH LESSON

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

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. 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 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.

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.

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst; text: Christina Rossetti

Ella Campbell-Becker, soprano; Andrea Wittchen, harp

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
 Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
 Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
 But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
 Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
 Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

SIXTH LESSON

The Magi Visit the Messiah

Matthew 2:1-6, 9-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ‘But 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.’”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

*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!

MEDITATION

Perfect Light

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

SEVENTH LESSON

Jesus the Light of the World

John 8:12

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*CAROL 60 (V.1 – 4)

Silent Night, Holy 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!
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

POSTLUDE

Still, Still, Still

Austrian Carol; arr. Wittchen
Susan Charlton, flute; Andrea Wittchen, harp

The poinsettias are given in memory of:

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

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

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

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

Dick Frantz,

by Pat Koefoed & Rich Linnell

Our parents, Martin & Pat Puffpaff,
by Melanie Puffpaff & Marilyn Weir

Her parents, Grace & Camille Barranger,
by Susan Mackay

Kevin Martin,

by Bud & Linda Martin

Cindy Walters,

by Donna Van Norman

Sal Ritz, Jessica Van Norman's godfather,
by Donna Van Norman

David Snyder and Nadine Snyder,
by Gloria Snyder

-continued-

My family – father, mother, sister, brother,

by Shirley Heinsohn

Family who have passed,

by Larry & Peg Opthof

My dear friend Michael Finley,

by Darcel Hayes-Bridges

Anna & Jim Clark and Bill & Caroline Schroeher,

By Bill & Carol Schroeher

Ann & Richard Beers,

by Chris & Candy Gulotta

Anthony & Norma Gulotta,

by Chris & Candy Gulotta

Loved ones,

by Carl McGloughlin & Julie DeMotte

My husband Tom,

By Ginny Ogden

Esther & Jessie Conrad,

by Ruthann Arras

Wendell Smith,

by Ruthann Arras

And in honor of:

My nephew Jim Vanderbilt,

by Ginny Ogden

Stefanie Muntzel,

by David & Lois Shoemaker

~::~~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Andrea Wittchen, Harp

Susan Charlton, Flute

Ella Campbell-Becker, Soprano

The Chancel Choir

Art Charlton, Liturgist

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

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DECEMBER 26 WORSHIP

Please join us for a simple service in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 26 at 10:30am, when we will give praise with a Christmas hymn sing and hear the good news of Christ's birth.

MID-WEEK MEDITATION

There will be no Mid-Week Meditation on December 29.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

The Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir weekly rehearsals:

Chancel Choir: Wednesdays, 5:00 to 6:15pm. **There is no rehearsal on December 29.**

Handbell Choir: Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:15pm. **There is no rehearsal on December 29, or January 5.**