

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2017

4 pm

(* indicates those who are able, please stand)

PRELUDE “Angels We Have Heard on High” -arr. C. Dobrinski

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsively*)

One: In the beginning of creation, when God made heaven and earth, the earth was without form and void. Darkness was over the face of the deep, and a mighty wind swept over the waters. God said, “Let there be light”, and there was light.

All: God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

One: When all things began, the Word already was. The Word dwelt with God, and what God was, the Word was. Through him all things came to be: no single thing was created without him. All that came to be was alive with his life, and that life was the light of the world.

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out!

*CHRISTMAS CAROL #148 “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;

(Refrain) **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

(Refrain) **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation, Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

(Refrain) **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

OPENING THE GIFT OF OURSELVES

INVOCATION (*In unison*)

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice. Let the sea roar. Let the fields exult. Let the trees of the forest sing for joy. Let all people praise your name, glorious God. For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. Great God, be born once more in the hearts of your people on this holiest of nights. Amen.

OPENING THE GIFT OF OTHERS

*CHRISTMAS CAROL #144 “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.
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.**

OPENING THE GIFT OF CREATION

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER (*Pastor then All*)

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE #134 “Emmanuel”

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.**

OPENING THE GIFT OF GOD

*CHRISTMAS CAROL #150 “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 the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,
mild he lays his 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 newborn King!”**

OFFERING OUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

OFFERTORY “Still, Still, Still” -arr. P. Manz

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #169 “O Thou Joyful”

DEDICATION OF GIFTS *(In unison)*

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us in Jesus the Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of your living Spirit born to us again this night. Send us out rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CEREMONY OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

(The lights will be dimmed during Silent Night and the flame will begin to pass. The first flame will be taken from the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath and then dispersed among you. Take the flame from your neighbor and please keep the burning candles upright)

***CHRISTMAS CAROL “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, 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**

(Lights return and candles are extinguished after Joy to the World prelude begins)

***CHRISTMAS CAROL #143 “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 earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of
his love, and wonders, wonders, of his love.**

POSTLUDE “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!” -arr. J.S. Bach