

7pm  
**Christmas Eve Worship**

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*(\* indicates those who are able, please stand)*

PRELUDE “Angels We Have Heard on High” -arr. A. Zabel  
*(Hand bell Choir and Organ)*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsively)*

One: Because Christ has been born in the world,

**All: people who walked in darkness now access a great light!**

One: Because Christ has been born in the world,

**All: the power to oppress and kill will not stand!**

One: Because Christ has been born in the world, we respond in wonder,

**All: with the angels, we sing glory to God, with the shepherds, we share the good  
good news; with Mary, we ponder the words of this night, and the Word that  
that has come into the world; Immanuel.**

\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #148 “O Come All Ye Faithful” *(Verses 1, 2, & 4)*

**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)*

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**

**Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

*(Refrain)*

**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!***

\*INVOCATION *(In unison)*

**Glorious God, on this Christmas Eve, we sing beloved carols of Bethlehem, of  
shepherds and angels, of Mary and Joseph, and the infant Jesus, our Savior. Is there  
yet a new song we can sing to you? A song to be learned from the heavens and the  
earth: where the roar of the sea, the exultation of the fields, and the joy of the trees  
are already raised in a chorus of glad rejoicing, ready to welcome you. Even if no ear  
may hear your coming, help us hear the music of creation. Then, with the whole  
cosmos, we will sing of your salvation, declare your glory, and in the crescendo of  
praise, bless your name: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM "Sing We Noel" -G. Young

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-35, 38

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

**\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #155 "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.**

*(Refrain)*

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?**

*(Refrain)*

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth.  
Come adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.**

*(Refrain)*

**See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.**

*(Refrain) Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

ISAIAH FORETELLS THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Isaiah 9:2-7 (page 638)

**CHRISTMAS CAROL #160 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"  
Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem  
hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming by  
faithful prophets sung; it came a flow'ret bright,  
amid the cold of winter when half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have  
in mind; with Mary we behold it, the  
virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright  
she bore to us a Savior when half spent was the night**

MICAH FORTELLS THE GLORY OF BETHLEHEM

Micah 5:2-4 (page 865)

**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.**

#### **CHRISTMAS PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

#### **THE BIRTH OF JESUS TOLD BY ST. LUKE**

*Luke 2:1-7 (page 58)*

#### **CHRISTMAS CAROL #147 "Away in a Manger"**

**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.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord  
Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look  
down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever,  
and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in  
thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

#### **THE BIRTH OF JESUS CONTINUED**

*Luke 2:8-20 (page 58)*

CHORAL ANTHEM “This Peaceful Night” -D. Besig

THE WISEMEN ARE LED TO THE STAR

Matthew 2:1-11 (*page 2*)

CHRISTMAS CAROL #172 “We Three Kings”

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing  
gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder  
star.**

*(Refrain)*

**Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever,  
ceasing never, over us all to reign.**

**Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising,  
voices raising, worshiping God on high.**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing,  
sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.**

**Glorious now behold him arise; Christ and God and sacrifice: alleluia, alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies.**

*(Refrain) O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward  
leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

OFFERING OUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

OFFERTORY “Pat a Pan” -arr. G. Meredith

*(Hand bell Choir; Dennis Ciche, Mike Colbert, Kevin Heinzl, Percussion)*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #162 “What Child Is This” (*Sung by all*)

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor,  
to own him, the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.**

*(Refrain)*

***This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*In unison*)

**Holy God, tonight we celebrate the greatest gift of all, your son, Jesus Christ. We  
receive this gift with thankful hearts and we open our lives so the light of Christ  
may guide us and lead us. Through this offering may we share the light we have  
received with all who are seeking, or lost, or lonely, that all of us may know your  
salvation together. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “O Holy Night” (*Brian and Celia Trexell*)

## 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 HYMN #145 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

*(Liz Casper, Flute; Kevin Heinzl, Guitar)*

*(The congregation joins in singing after the German verse is sung by Ceilia Trexell.)*

**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)*

### \*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 “In Dulco Jubilo” -arr. J.S. Bach

*We thank tonight’s brass players: Henry Erenz, Ken Gleesing and Tommy Casper.*