



Online Worship Resource (Friday, December 24, 2021)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

A CHRISTMAS GLORIA

Arr. J. Van Der Pol

(Piano/organ duet)

*Come All Ye Shepherds; Once in Royal David's City; Angels We Have Heard
on High*

Jane Kerr, Organist & David Maley, Pianist

Welcome & Announcements

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Please join me in our responsive Candle lighting liturgy:

Something stirs deep within us . . .

a longing, a hope,

a thirst for joy,

a hunger for peace,

a yearning for blessing.

We know deep within

That our hopes and fears

Will be met by angel songs and baby sighs.

We have made our Advent journey...

a journey of waiting, hoping, yearning,

to arrive tonight at Christmas Eve.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Opening Carol: "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord has 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.

Passing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Chuck Hasbrouck

Please join me as we prepare our hearts to hear and receive God's Word by praying together the Prayer for Illumination. Let us pray ...

Gracious God, on this holy night we gather -----

to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;

to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;

to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promises;

to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy, for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, Christ the Lord.

Glory in the highest and praise to your forever! Amen.

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 11:1-9

Chuck Hasbrouck

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Special Music: "Let Us Sing"

Gabriel Mayeden

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Charles Frempong

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol: "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.

New Testament Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Ray Klopotek

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

Special Music:

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Amanda Fahrig

New Testament Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

Whitney Roberts

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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 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, offspring 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!"

New Testament Lesson:

Luke 2:15-20

Andy Clay

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music:

"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"

Trio: Amanda Fahrig, Gabriel Mayeden, Judy Viccellio

Sharing the Lord's Supper

Call to Confession

Trusting in the mercy of God to forgive and restore all those who truly repent, let us draw near to God and confess our sins. Let us pray. . . .

Prayer of Confession

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how those seeking refuge are still turned away and find no place of safety; how peace is torn asunder by violence and war.

We also see what is wrong with us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not shine as light and hope to a fragile world. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to seek you and find you.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, in Christ Jesus, God has blessed all creation and called you to walk in God's light and love.

With joy and gratitude we receive the miracle of God's mercy and forgiveness. Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

Sung Response Refrain: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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

Communion Music: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Judy Viccellio, soloist

Prayer after Communion

Sharing the Light of Christ

Closing Carol: "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! 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:

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Franz Gruber (1818)

Christmas Eve Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar and soloist,

David Maley, piano, Soloists, Amanda Fahrig, Gabriel Mayeden,

Readers, Chuck Hasbrouck, Charles Frempong, Ray Klopotek,

Whitney Roberts Andy Clay, communion preparers Barbara Allen and

Ilse Klopotek and Glenn Fahrig, technology team