

ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP

Sunday, December 6, 2020

St. John's Baptist Church | Charlotte, NC

EXPECTING GOD'S HANDS OF PEACE: ADVENT II

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter

by Gustav Holst

McCoy Crawford, violinist

Greeting & Prayer of Submission

Rev. Allison Benfield

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Hank & Elizabeth Packman

Song

Light the Candle

by J. Kevin Gray

Wesley Watts, soloist



Light the candle of peace,
Let its glow warm your heart
Till your heart finds release
May we open our eyes to God's love in full view
Jesus will be born, making all things new

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Malachi 2:17-3:7

James Laney, reader

You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, 'How have we wearied him?' By saying, 'All who do evil are good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them.' Or by asking, 'Where is the God of justice?' See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful
ADESTE FIDELES

1. 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!

Church at Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song

I Wonder As I Wander
arr. John Jacob Niles
Anna Ball, soloist

1. I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

2. When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

3. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

Carol

The First Noel

1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Offertory

Thus Saith the Lord

by G. F. Handel

John Fortson, soloist

Haggai 2:6-7 Thus saith the Lord of Hosts; Yet once, a little while and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come

Malachi 3:1 The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: Behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. But who may abide the Day of His Coming?

Malachi 3:22. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

Message

Metanoia

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels, we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song. [Refrain]

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

Postlude

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts

J. Noel Lance