

Christmas Eve Worship

CANDLES, CAROLS, & COMMUNION

Thursday, December 24, 2020
St. John's Baptist Church | Charlotte, NC



Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the Newborn King!

Introduction to Worship

Sing We Now of Christmas

Catherine McMichael

Greeting & Prayer of Submission

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Lighting the Christ Candle

Nate & Emma Dove

John 1:1-4, NRSV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

This is the written Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

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!"

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!"

The Christmas Story

Rev. Allison Benfield

Solo

Gesù Bambino

by Pietro Alessandro Yon

Reneé Hutchison, soloist

Peace on Earth and Mercy Mild, God and Sinners Reconciled!

The Church at Prayer & the Christmas Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

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.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of the heav'ns.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

Joyful All Ye Nations Rise, Join the Triumph of the Skies

Homily

Light Shining in the Darkness

Dr. Foust

Solo

O Holy Night

by Adolph Adams

Wesley Watts, soloist

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope - the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name, all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

With Angelic Hosts Proclaim, "Christ Is Born in Bethlehem!"

Communion with Candelighting

Dr. Foust

The Lighting of the Candles

Sleep Little Tiny Baby & Silent Night

by J. Kevin Gray and sung by the Chancel Choir

Sleep little, tiny baby. Sleep little, holy child. You are the hope of the nations. Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep. Sleep while the angels sing to You. Sleep holy child while the angels sing so sweet. You were sent to lead us, teach us how to love.

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. Sleep, little child, so meek and mild. Sleep Holy One.

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.

Merry Christmas!