

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Christmas Eve

Traditional Service - 7 p.m.

December 24, 2022

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

PRELUDE Noel Nouvelet — Traditional French/arr. Keith Snell

Hill to Hill Brass Quintet

"Comfort Ye"/"Every Valley Shall Be Exalted", from *Messiah* — Handel

Eric Fennell, Tenor

Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep — arr. K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir

Shepherds, shake off your drowsy sleep,
Rise, and leave your silly sheep;
Angels from heav'n around are singing,
Tidings of great joy are bringing.
Shepherds, the chorus come and swell,
Sing Noel, oh sing Noel.

Hark, even now the bells ring round,
Listen to their merry sound;

Hark! How the birds new songs are making,
As if winter's chains were breaking.
Shepherds, the chorus come and swell,
Sing Noel, oh sing Noel.

See how the flow'rs all burst anew,
Thinking snow is summer dew;
See how the stars afresh are glowing,
All their brightest beams bestowing.
Shepherds, the chorus come and swell,
Sing Noel, oh sing Noel.

Cometh at length the age of peace,
Strife and sorrow now shall cease;
Prophets foretold the wondrous story,
Of this heav'n-born Prince of glory.
Shepherds, the chorus come and swell,
Sing Noel, oh sing Noel.

Shepherds! Then up and quick away,
Seek the babe ere break of day;
He is the hope of ev'ry nation,
All in him shall find salvation.
Shepherds, the chorus come and swell,
Sing Noel, oh sing Noel.

Please stand if you are able.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: In God's house, there is hope;
People: for God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.
Leader: In God's house, there is peace;
People: for all that separates us from God is overcome.
Leader: In God's house, there is joy;
People: for God intends us not just to be alive, but to have abundant life in Christ.
Leader: In God's house, there is love;
People: for God is love, and whoever abides in love, abides in God.
Leader: In the center of our hope, of our peace, of our joy, of our love, is God;
People: for God came to this earth to dwell with us.
Leader: So tonight we light the Christ Candle, for in Christ God has come among us and stays with us always.
People: Tonight, we are all welcomed home.

ADVENT RESPONSE #9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Verse 1) VENI EMMANUEL

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*OPENING CAROL #41

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!

2 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
(Refrain)

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
Glory in the highest!
(Refrain)

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We don't fully understand the Christmas story. We have no experience with angel choruses, we have not walked many miles to be counted in a census, and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams. We don't fully understand this story, so sometimes we hesitate to tell it. Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine, we whisper this good news. Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in, we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out. Forgive us for our silence. Forgive us for our hesitation. Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news. Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7 — Marie Rosenthal

CAROL "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen" — M. Praetorius/arr. Lewis Niven

HIll to Hill Brass Quintet

READING Luke 1:26-38 — Judy Smullen

CAROL Candlelight Carol — John Rutter

Chancel Choir

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Refrain:

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star glow,
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing: the Christ child is born.

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep,
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. (**Refrain)**

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day. (**Refrain)**

READING Matthew 1:18-25 — Melinda Stitt

CAROL Away in a Manger — Leo Sowerby

Chancel Choir

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright 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 side until morning is nigh.

READING Luke 2:1-7 — The Rev. J.C. Austin

CAROL — # 44
O Little Town of Bethlehem (Verse 1) — ST.LOUIS

1 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.

READING Luke 2:8-20 — The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

CAROL — #23
Angels We Have Heard on High (Verse 1) — GLORIA

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

Refrain:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

READING Matthew 2:1-11 — Bob Hunsicker

CAROL — #53
What Child is This (Verses 1 & 3) — GREENSLEEVES

1 What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

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!

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
(Refrain)

SERMON — The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Out of Place"

WE RESPOND

CAROL #56

The First Noel (Verses 1 & 6) THE FIRST NOEL

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

Refrain:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

6 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood our life hath bought.
(Refrain)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call to Give

Offertory

Gesu Bambino Pietro Yon

Eric Fennell, Tenor and Hill to Hill Brass Quintet

Offertory Response #36

In the Bleak Midwinter (Verse 4) CRANHAM

4 What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him:
Give my heart.

CANDLE LIGHTING #60

Silent Night (Verses 1, 3 & 4) STILLE NACHT

1 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.

3 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.

4 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

*CLOSING CAROL #40

Joy to the World! (Verses 1, 2 & 4) ANTIOCH

1 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.

2 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

4 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 Hallelujah Chorus, from *Messiah* GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Hill to Hill Brass Quintet and David Macbeth, Organ