

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem



Digital Christmas Eve Festival Service 7 p.m. December 24, 2020

WE GATHER

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

PRELUDE "Ach Gott, erhore' mein Seufzen"	J. S. Bach/arr. Isaias Garcia
"Salvation is Created"	Paul Tschesnekov/ arr. David Thompson
"Shepherd's Pipe Carol"	John Rutter/ arr. Charles Evans
Hill to Hill Brass Quintet	

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

ADVENT RESPONSE	#9
O Come, O Come Emmanuel	(verse 1)

Bryan McClary

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.

CAROL	#41
O Come, All Ye Faithful	ADESTE FIDELES
<p>1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!</p>	

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 CONFESS

PRAYER OF CONFESS

Gracious and Loving God, on this Christmas Eve we celebrate the coming of your Son Jesus, coming into the world as a light chases away the shadows and gloom of the deepest night. But we confess that we sometimes still fear that the shadows may be stronger; that Christ's light is too dim or too far away for us. Help us to trust in the power of your grace and love, that we may be comforted and strengthened by Christ's light, and share it with others as we love them and you in lives of service.

SILENT CONFESS

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

CAROL

#38

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (Verse 1 & 4)

CAROL

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

READING Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

CAROL

#48

Lo How A Rose E're Blooming

Madison Zahorsky

Es Ist Ein Ross

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

2 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 for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

READING Luke 1:26-35, 37-38

CAROL "Gesu Bambino", Hill to Hill Brass Pietro Yon/Arr. Robert Wallace

READING Luke 2:1-7

CAROL Mary's Lullaby Virtual Choir Anthem John Rutter

READING Luke 2:8-20

CAROL #23

Angels We Have Heard on High (Verses 1 & 2) Rebecca Erhard 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.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

READING Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL #53

What Child is This Madison Zahorsky 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!
2 Why lies He in such mean estate,

Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

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 Place to Be“

The Rev. J.C. Austin

WE RESPOND

CAROL

#56

The First Noel (verse 1 & 6)

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 akeeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
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 Response

In the Bleak Midwinter

(verse 4)

#36

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

Silent Night

(verse 1, 3 & 4)

#60

STILLE NACHT

Madison Zahorsky and Bryan McClary

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

WE ARE SENT

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"

"Amen" Fugue" from Messiah

George F. Handel

Hill to Hill Brass Quintet, David Macbeth, Organ