

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem



Christmas Eve Traditional Service 7 p.m.

December 24, 2021

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

PRELUDE Various Selections

Hill to Hill Brass Quintet

Come, All Ye Shepherds
God Rest Ye Merry

arr. John Wilson
arr. Kevin McChesney

Chancel Ringers

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

Melinda and Andrew Stitt

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.

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

Holy God, you throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. But instead of running towards you, we tiptoe around the edges of our faith, uncertain if we will risk truly coming in. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection with you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears not just to hear your invitation, but to trust that its good news comes even and especially for us.

SILENT CONFESSION

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 "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen"

arr. Lewis Niven

Hill to Hill Brass Quintet

READING Luke 1:26-35, 37-38

CAROL "What is this Lovely Fragrance?"

Healy Willan

Chancel Choir (**see insert**)

READING Luke 2:1-7

CAROL The Lamb

John Tavener

Chancel Choir (**see insert**)

READING Luke 2:8-20

CAROL

#23

Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1 & 2)

GLORIA

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

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

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

READING Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL

#53

What Child is This

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?

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)

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

"Coming Home"

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.

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)

Refrain:

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

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

Coventry Carol

arr. Steve Pilkington

Chancel Choir and Handbells **(see insert)**

Offertory Response

#36

In the Bleak Midwinter

verse 4 **(see insert)**

CRANHAM

CANDLE LIGHTING

#60

Silent Night

verse 1, 3 & 4 **(see insert)**

STILLE NACHT

BENEDICTION

CAROL

#40

Joy to the World!

verses 1, 2 & 4 **(see insert)**

ANTIOCH

POSTLUDE Ding Dong, Merrily on High!

Jehan Tabourot

Arr. Kevin Rosenberry

Hill to Hill Brass Quintet, David Macbeth, Organ

"What is this Lovely Fragrance?"

Healy Willan

Whence is the goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away,
Never the like did come a-blowing,
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields of May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away.

What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes.
Never so bright, the day-star waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking,
Here in the night across our eyes.

Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps vying!
Worship the Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away.

The Lamb

John Tavener

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee.

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

Offertory

Coventry Carol

arr. Steve Pilkington

Chancel Choir and Handbells

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully, lullay.
Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we sing,
"Bye bye, lully, lullay"?

Herod the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee
And ever mourn and may
For thy parting neither say nor sing,
"Bye bye, lully, lullay."

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 Ceremony
Silent Night (verse 1, 3 & 4)

#60
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!

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

#40
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.