

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2020, 6:00PM

THE PRELUDE

Alex Chiu, organ

A WELCOME IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

Rev. Don Francois, Bridge Pastor

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

**People: For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be a sign unto us; we shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling
clothes, lying in a manger.**

Pastor: Come and worship; come and worship!

People: Worship Christ, the newborn king!

THE OPENING HYMN – *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* vs. 1-2

**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 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. [Refrain]**

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Pastor: Let us pray together...

People: On this Christmas Eve, Holy God, you reveal to us once again, in the eyes of our children, in the hopes of our adults, in the wisdom of our seniors, that the Word is continually made flesh to dwell among us. Your light shines in our midst. Grant us the grace to see it, perceive it, and celebrate it! All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen.

*“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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”*

LIGHTING OF THE FOUR ADVENT CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

Choir: The sun shall be no more your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon adorn the night.
But the Lord will be your glory, the lamp to light your way.
The Lord will be your everlasting light.

**ALL: Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you;
With radiant hope, illuminate the night.
Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring,
Lift up your eyes and see the everlasting light.**

The Light of Christ – responsive litany with music underscore

Leader: For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

People: O come, let us adore Him!

Leader: For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

People: O come, let us adore Him!

Leader: For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

People: O come, let us adore Him!

Leader: For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!

People: O come, let us adore Him!

Candle Lighting: Lighting the first, second purple candles, the pink candle, the third purple candle and finally the center, white, Christ candle.

Congregational Sung Response

**Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you;
With radiant hope, illuminate the night.
Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring,
Lift up your eyes and see the everlasting light.**

Closing Prayer

Leader: Let us join together in prayer:

People: *Lord Jesus, tonight we join the angelic choir proclaiming glory to God in the highest. In a world where people seek the perfect gift to give, we rejoice because you've already given it. As you lit up the sky that first Christmas, continue to illuminate our world with your presence. We pray on this Christmas Eve that you will guide our every step, hear our every prayer, and delight in every praise as we come and worship Christ, our newborn King. Amen.*

CAROL

"Away in a Manger"

Matt Bureau, guitar

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.

2 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.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

TELLING THE STORY WITH LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Nativity: Luke 2:1-7 (see last page for reading)

CAROL

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" vs. 1- 2

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 men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

**2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Angels: Luke 2:8-14

CAROL

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vs. 1&3

**1 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 th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**2 Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel. [Refrain]**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Shepherds: Luke 2:15-20

CAROL

"What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest" vs. 1-2

**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?**

Chorus:

**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.[Chorus]**

THE CELEBRATION OF LIGHT (responsive)

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who have dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

People: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. They who follow me shall not walk in darkness." (John 8:12)

Pastor: Let your light so shine...that all may see your good works, and give glory to God in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

People: For unto us a Child is born....and the government shall be upon His shoulders, and His name will be called "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "The Everlasting," "The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

THE CANDLE LIGHTING MUSIC *"O Holy Night"* Handbell Choir

(Alexander Chiu, Nancy Douton, Anne Robinson, Karen Butzgy, Lynn Sharpe)

(During the playing of this music the Pastor and deacons will light their candles. You may light yours as well. Feel free to use an LED candle with little ones.)

CLOSING CAROL *"Silent Night, Holy Night"* Matt Bureau, guitar

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly host sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.**

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, lover's pure light

**Radiant beams from the holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Followed by silence as we listen to the church bell proclaim the good news!

BENEDICTION

** Candle Lighting for Advent music and words written by Joel Raney

Advent Texts by Rev. Rich Davis, Senior Pastor, Emmanuel Reformed Church, Morrison, Illinois

Luke 2. 1-20

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Angels

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

The Shepherds

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.