

Christmas Day

December 25, 2021

10:00 A.M.

Please note: The worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

The playing of favorite Christmas Carols is a great way to promote and inspire the “Christmas Spirit.” Many of the classic Carols hold deep meaning during Christmas. But more than just familiar tunes and emotional memories, these Carols tell a story. They are filled with beautiful words that share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As you hear and sing these familiar Carols this Christmas Day, may your heart be filled with the Good News of the story they share.

PRELUDE

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Jeffrey Bleresch

The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence of God

+ PREPARATION +

(Please stand)

OPENING CAROL

376 Once in Royal David's City

- 1** Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2** He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3** For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4** And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
- 5** Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father,

People: who so loved the world that He sent His only Son.

Pastor: In the name of the Son,

People: who came to our world to redeem us.

Pastor: In the name of the Holy Spirit,

People: Whose presence brings us life and light.

Pastor: In the name of our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

People: to our God be glory and praise, both now and forevermore. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: On this holy day, we gather in awe, preparing to worship the Christ Child. As we consider the birth of our Savior, we recognize our great need for Him. We confess before God and to one another that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We examine our lives according to the perfect Law of God and recognize our many sins against God and one another. In humble adoration, we bow before Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, who was sent to be our substitute, sacrifice, and the atonement for the sins of the whole world.

People: Lord Jesus, for us sinners, You became a child. Since we could not fulfill the Father's just and holy will, You fulfilled it for us. We bow before You, humbly confessing our sinfulness that separates us from You. We repent of our sins in thought, word, and action that so often oppose and neglect Your righteous ways. Forgive us our sin that we may be reconciled to You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: On this Christmas Day, I announce Good News of great joy to you: For Jesus' sake, I, as a called and ordained servant of God, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He has paid your ransom; you have been reconciled to God. Rejoice!

People: Amen! Thanks be to God!

CAROL OF PRAISE

373 See amid the Winter's Snow

1 See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years. (Refrain)

Ref Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

2 Lo, within a stable lies
He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim. (Refrain)

3 Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this! (Refrain)

4 Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
By Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee
In Thy sweet humility. (Refrain)

Text: Public domain

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray –

Gracious God, we celebrate this day of our Lord’s birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. We welcome You, Jesus, as the Savior of the world and the Lord of our hearts, who now lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

ANTHEM

“Gaudete!”

Arranged by Michael Burkhardt

Refrain:

Gaudete! Gaudete! (Rejoice! Rejoice!)

Christus est natus ex Maria Virgine: (Christ is born of the Virgin Mary:)

Gaudete! (Rejoice!)

*Now the time has come at last,
Bringing joy and gladness;
Time foretold by sages past,
Healing earth’s deep sadness. (Refrain)*

*Nature marvels at the sight,
Earth look on in wonder:
For the Lord of love and light
Rends the heavens asunder. (Refrain)*

*Christ is born: Emmanuel,
Hope of every nation!
Therefore let us sing noel
With the whole creation! (Refrain)*

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN CAROLS

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!

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

“Bethlehem”

Luke 2:1-5

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

“The Birth of Christ”

Luke 2:6-7

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,
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

“The Angels”

Luke 2:8-14

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!”

(continue on next page)

**Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

"The Shepherds"

Luke 2:8-11

*Choir: God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

**All: From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**All: Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

“The Manger”

Luke 2:15-20

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the 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 cradle till morning is nigh.

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 take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

“The Wise Men”

Matthew 2:1-8

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

Refrain:

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

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. (*Refrain*)

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain – following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O - star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain; gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. *(Refrain)***

**Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all men raising, worship Him, God on high. *(Refrain)***

**Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering doom
Sorr’wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *(Refrain)***

**Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia! Earth to heav’n replies. *(Refrain)***

ANTHEM

“We Wish You A Merry Christmas”

*Arranged by Ryan Meyer
Stanzas 2-4 written by Norman C. Meyer*

*We wish you a merry Christmas,
And a happy New Year!
Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin—
Good tidings for Christmas,
And a happy New Year!*

*The angels break out in singing;
To shepherds good news they're bringing;
In chorus they're loudly singing,
"Give all glory to God!
The Christ Child is born
On this happy morn!
The Savior has come now—
Give all glory to God!"*

*O, hear now the angels singing;
Let bells peel their joyous ringing;
It's for you – that news they're bringing
Of sweet peace and goodwill.
The Christ Child is here
To bring you good cheer
Of pardon, of God's love,
Of sweet peace and goodwill.*

Congregation:

**Dear Christ Child, with love we hold You,
With great awe and thanks we praise You,
In thought, word, and act we serve You
For the gifts You have giv'n.
Come into our heart,
In grace to impart
The beauty, the blessing
Of the gifts You have giv'n.**

**We wish you a merry Chistmas,
We wish you a merry Chistmas,
We wish you a merry Chistmas,
And a happy New Year!**

Please stand

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

If you are visiting with us this morning, your presence with us is your contribution. Thank you for sharing this time with us. During the offering, please sign the fellowship register found at the end of each pew. Pass the pad on and when it reaches the end of the pew, pass it back, noting the names of others.

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

Charles Callahan

Please stand

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Pastor: Joyfully we come to You in worship this holy day, Lord God, for You have sent to us Your Son and through Him You have saved us.

People: **Glory be to You, O God!**

Pastor: We stand in awe before the wonder of Jesus' humble birth and declare our gratitude that You have invited us to receive Your love.

People: **Help us to see in Him our true hope, Lord God.**

Pastor: Inspire us through the faithful response to Your love of those who came to the manger that first Christmas to behold their Savior.

People: **May we turn from life's cares to worship and adore Him!**

Pastor: Help us, O God, to find in Jesus' birth our motivation to live a new life, and to share that newness of life with all those around us.

People: **Send us forth to love and serve and care for all those whom our lives touch.**

Pastor: Renew in us a willingness to show forth the power of Your presence in our world. Make us Your witnesses to all people. Use our voices to proclaim that Jesus has come!

People: **In our words, our thoughts, and our deeds, may Christ be alive.**

Pastor: Glory to You in the highest, Lord God, Heavenly Father!

People: **And on earth, bring peace among all people!**

Pastor: This we pray through the Prince of Peace, Your Son, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

+ SACRAMENT +

In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for by His incarnation He has embraced all of humanity and filled the world with good news and great joy. We lift our voices in praise and we lift our hearts in prayer as we come before You, Lord God, praying:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

A "continuous communion table" will be the method of distribution this day. Communicants will come forward down the center aisle at the direction of the usher. You will receive the wafer from the pastor at the center and then proceed to the right or left (depending on which side of the church you are sitting) to receive the wine. You will then return to your pew. As is our custom, communion will be brought to people in the pews who have difficulty walking to the chancel. If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle. Also young children will receive a word of blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

**Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)**

**The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)**

**Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)**

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.**

**Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.**

**Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!**

"From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

"This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be.
From all your sins to set you free.

"He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.

"These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

Please stand

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, You came to us a child, laid in a manger so long ago.

People: Today You have come to us as bread and wine, body and blood.

Pastor: Fill us with the joy of Your presence.

People: And lead us to shine Your light in every dark corner of this earth.

Pastor: We pray in the precious name of Jesus, our newborn King.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

Please turn towards the cross as it is carried out of the church, and remain facing it until the hymn is completed. This symbolizes our following Christ into the world as we leave

CLOSING CAROL

387 Joy to the World!

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 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.

Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

J. Wayne Kerr

Serving at Chapel

Worship Leader:	Theodore Laesch
Choir:	Choral Singers
Choir Director:	Ryan Meyer
Choir Accompanist:	Carolyn Rusnak
Organist:	Carolyn Rusnak
Instrumentalists:	Ted Laesch and Nate Laesch, trumpets Jake Laesch, euphonium Zeke Laesch, french horn
Acolyte:	Jonah Meyer

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve Worship - Friday, December 31, 6:30 p.m.

Epiphany Worship - Thursday, January 6, 6:30 p.m.

Regular Worship Services: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

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