

(hymnal #48)

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 hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour is born! Christ, the Saviour 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr 1792-1885; Tr. by John F. Young 1820-1885; Music: Franz Gruber 1787-1863

Benediction

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in deepest night, are lit up with a brilliant sight.
Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.
The spread of his influence and of his peace will never end.
Therefore, go out into the world with great joy,
and the grace of Bethlehem's matchless Child,
the love of the God who never ceases to amaze,
and the fellowship of the Spirit who never wearies,
will be with you this holy night and evermore.

Thanks be to God!

May you rest in the light of His love; may your spirit rejoice in the gift of His salvation; may your heart be still in the presence of His peace!



Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2013, 10.00 pm

Prelude

- Janek Saunders

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

There was a Time: An Advent Poem (F. Joseph Breighner)

(black binder #33)

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

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

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine
advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

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

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.

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

O come, Desire of nations, Bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

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

Words: John M. Neale (1818-1866); vss. 3 and 4 tr. Henry S. Coffin (1877-1954)
MUSIC: French Melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

One: Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth, and peace on whom his favor rests.

All: Because of God's mercy and compassion, the Morning Star has appeared to herald the dawn.

One: The Word has become flesh, and has come to dwell among us, and we have seen His glory!

All: His glory is that of the only Son of the Father, He is full of grace and truth.

One: For to us a child is born. To us, a son is given. Alleluia.
Every nation, every tribe, and every tongue has seen the salvation of our God.

All: Alleluia!

(red hymnal #61)

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

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.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth!

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Negro Spiritual | Harm. by Norman K. Giesbrecht b. 1942

Mary's Story: Luke 1:26-38

- reader

Joseph's Story: Matthew 1:18-25

- reader

(red hymnal #40)

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?

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King...

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come, peasant, king, to own Him,

The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the King...

Words: William Chetterton Dix (1837-1898)
MUSIC: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7. with Ref. Traditional French Melody

Birth of Christ: Luke 2:1-7

- reader

Lighting of the Christ Candle (2 Cor. 8:9)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

One: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world

All: The Light no darkness can overcome

One: Stay with us now, for it is evening

All: And the day is almost over.

One: Let your light scatter the darkness

All: And shine within your people here.

(red hymnal #37)

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!

And praises sing to God the King, And peace to me on earth.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,

And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

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.

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893; Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Shepherds: Luke 2:8-20

- reader

(red hymnal #34)

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.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

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.

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.

Words: Isaac Watts 1674 - 1748 / Music: Attr. to George F. Handel 1685 - 1759 / arr. by Lowell Mason 1792-1872

Christmas Message

A Prayer for Christmas

...For you are our life, our light and our salvation

This season and always, because of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Passing of the Light