

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2014, 10.00 pm

(red hymnal #59)

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

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See within a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, With us sing our Saviour's birth.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Traditional French Carol

(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: *God with Us*

A Prayer for Christmas

Passing of the Light

(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

Prelude

The News (mini movie)

All whose hearts overflow with gratitude and hope, **come and worship**
All whose hearts may be filled with despair and grief, **come and worship**
All who come with doubts or questions about life in Jesus, **come and worship**.
Through the grace of God's Holy Spirit,
Come, worship Christ, the newborn King.

(red hymnal #58)

Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth,
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth;

Come and worship, Come and worship,

Worship Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light;

Come and worship, Come and worship,

Worship Christ the newborn King.

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear;
Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King.

Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854; Music: Henry T. Smart 1813-1879

Mary's Story: Luke 1:26-38

(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 all 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

Joseph's Story: Matthew 1:18-23

(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

- Annie Tsay

For to us a child is born,
To us a son is given,
And the government will be on His shoulders,
**And He will be called wonderful counselor,
mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

(red hymnal #54)

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

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb:
Veil'd in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleas'd as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Son 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."

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-1788; Music: Arr: Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847

Shepherds: Luke 2:8-14

- Paul Birch

Reader: It was a night like any other. The shepherds
sat in the darkness, watching over their sheep. The quiet darkness
reminded them that the rest of the world was sleeping.

Congregation (in a whisper): Jesus is born.

Reader: Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to
the shepherds, and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be
afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all
the people."

Congregation (loudly): Jesus is born!

Reader: "Today in the town of David a Savior has
been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Congregation: His name is Jesus!

Reader: "This will be a sign to you: You will find a
baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly
host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying...

**Congregation: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace to those on whom his favor rests."**