



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

8:00pm & 10:30pm Candlelight Service

REFLECTION

(He asked) again— “Are you going home for Christmas?”—and asked it in some sort of way that brought tears to my eyes and made it almost unnecessary for him to move on to his answer to the question, which was that home, finally, is the manger in Bethlehem, the place where at midnight even the oxen kneel.

~ Frederick Buechner, Longing for Home

PRELUDE

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

“O Tannenbaum”

“Gesù Bambino”

“Christmas Time Is Here”

Meditation on a “Welsh Lullaby”

arr. Raymond H. Haan

arr. Vince Guaraldi

arr. Robert S. Wallace

arr. Vince Guaraldi

arr. Philip M. Young

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Richard Heun Family (8:00pm); Tom & Darcy Asché (10:30pm)

****CAROL**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

arr. David Willcocks

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!
 O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
 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 above!
 Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
 O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

REFLECTION

“An Invitation: Come Home to Christmas”

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Gaudete!”

arr. Chris DeSilva

Refrain and Tune: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

Translation: *“Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary”*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-6

****CAROL**

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

GLORIA
arr. Carlton R. Young

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing 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 heavenly 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!

SECOND LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

SPECIAL MUSIC

“What Child Is This”

arr. Howard Helvey

REFLECTION

“Come Home to Bethlehem”

Rev. William Schram

****CAROL**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

arr. John Behnke

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

****CAROL**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!”

arr. Timothy Bandy

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!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

REFLECTION

“Jesus Brings Another Meaning To Home”

Rev. William Schram

FOURTH SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 2:8-14*

****CAROL** *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*

African-American Spiritual, arr. Robert A. Hobby

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 Savior’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 lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us 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!

REFLECTION *“Join the Shepherds at the Home We Long For”*

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Rise Up, Shepherd”*

arr. Mark Hayes

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

During the singing of “Silent Night,” you may light your candles. As we begin to sing the third stanza of “Joy to the World,” please RAISE your candle as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light which darkness will never overcome.

CAROL *“Silent Night”*

STILLE NACHT

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 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.

****CAROL** *“Joy to the World”*

ANTIOCH

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 earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
Whole fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
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.

REFLECTION

“Our Heart’s True Home Has Come to Us”

Rev. William Schram

****BENEDICTION**

*At the conclusion of the blessing, please extinguish
your candle and deposit it with the ushers as you exit.*

POSTLUDE

“Christmas Fantasy”

arr. Joel Raney

****All who are able may stand**

*The funding for the instrumentalists is given in loving memory of the Zitzner family - Art & Theatrice
Zitzner, Thea Ruth Zitzner White and her husband, Andy White.*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers

MUSIC PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Barbara Piercy, Minister of Music

Noel A. Piercy, Associate Director of Music

Chancel Choir

Chancel Handbell Choir

Westminster Choir

Soloists: Madison Goodson, Madison Suk, Malcolm Haddad

Friends of the Choirs & Youth Choir Alums

Octet: Madison Borys, Jessica Goodson (flute), Malcolm Haddad, Micki Hardenberg,

Trevor Heun, Adriana Piercy, Alan Smulen, Cynthia Welborn

James De La Garza, Trumpet I, Section Leader

Dan Egan, Trumpet II

Frederico Perez, Tenor Trombone

Rob Fournier, Bass Trombone

Jesse Gerbasi, Timpani & Drum Set

John Lenis, Bass



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