

December 24, 2022

8:00 pm

Christmas Eve

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tired and heavy with child, Mary asked “When will we get to Bethlehem?” And Joseph said:

Soon, very soon.

Across the centuries the people had waited for the coming Messiah. This night, above Bethlehem’s deep and dreamless sleep, the stars were saying:

Soon, very soon

In the fields the shepherds guarded their sheep and their hopes. When would the promised salvation arrive. And the night wind whispered:

Soon, very soon.

*HYMN NO. 384 vs. 1,2,3

“*Soon and Very Soon*”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

1. Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!
2. No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!
3. No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lighting the candles today is Joan Loiacano and the Jimenez Family

**CAROL NO. 113

“*O Come, All Ye Faithful*”

ADESTE FIDELES

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. True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Refrain

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

OPENING PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The First Noel”

Arr. Cathy Moklebust

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-6

Page 602 OT

CAROL NO. 129 vs 1,2

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

ES IST EIN' ROS'

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Page 54 NT

ANTHEM

“Angel's Carol”

John Rutter

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

Page 54 NT

CAROL NO. 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

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 the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
2. 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 identity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
3. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healings in his wings.
Mild he lays glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

MEDITATION

“Sacred Being”

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 NO. 122

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

1. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heavenly afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!”
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
4. Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

*CAROL NO. 134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

1. 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.
2. Joy to the earth, 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.
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, and wonders of his love.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Norah Duncan IV

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Interim Music Director
Chancel Choir
Gramercy Brass Orchestra
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers
Michael Sperrazza, & Matthew Califf AV Team

✠ For more information about our First Pres, please visit our website:

www.firstprescaldwell.org

