

December 24, 2023

10:00 pm

Christmas Eve

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Noel”

Louis-Claude Daquin

“O Come, Little Children”

arr. Lloyd Larson

INTROIT

“O Magnum Mysterium”

Tomas Luis de Victoria

Latin

O magnum mysterium, et
admirabile sacramentum, ut
animalia viderent Dominum
natum, iacentem in
praesepio! O beata virgo,
cuius viscerameruerunt
portare Dominum Iesum
Christum. Alleluia!

English

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!
O blessed virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear
the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

Diane and Caitlin Joy

*HYMN NO. 133

“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

God of Christmas, we give you thanks this day for a love alive, an earth-dwelling love announced long ago by angel voices on high and by an infant’s cradle cry. Help us move from receptive thankfulness to an active extension of the Christmas message. Keep us ready to welcome your presence with a Mary-like openness of faith and a Joseph-like trust, for we need both of these traits to overcome our hesitation at doing your will. Grant us a shepherd-like eagerness to be with you; a strong desire to share in the great things you do and an abiding wonder that you call us to bear witness to your Son, this world’s Redeemer. Enable us to grow with the Bethlehem child, expanding our love for you, for one another and for strangers. In Jesus’ name. Amen

FIRST LESSON ~ Foretelling the Savior's Arrival

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Page 600, OT

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The First Noel"

Jay Rouse

SECOND LESSON ~ A Ruler Comes From Bethlehem

Micah 5:2-4

Page 815, OT

*HYMN NO. 121 verses 1,2 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

ST. LOUIS

1. 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.
2. For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

THIRD LESSON ~ Foretelling the Peace the Savior Brings

Isaiah 11:1-9

Page 602, OT

*CAROL NO. 123 verses 1,4 *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*

AROL

1. It came upon the midnight clear, glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
4. And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

FOURTH LESSON ~ The Angel Gabriel Comes to Mary

Luke 1:26-38

Page 53, NT

*CAROL NO. 140 verses 1,2 *"Once in Royal David's City"*

IRBY

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 meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

FIFTH LESSON ~ Joseph Hears the Angel's Message

Matthew 1:18-25

Page 1, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Rejoice and Be Merry"

John Rutter

SIXTH LESSON ~ The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

Page 54, NT

*HYMN NO. 115

“Away in a Manger”

MUELLER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray
Bless all dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SEVENTH LESSON ~ The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2:8-20

Page 54, NT

*HYMN 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 deity,
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 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“See Amid The Winter’s Snow”

arr. Lloyd Larson

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

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.

*HYMN NO. 122 verses 1, 2, and 3 *“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.

*HYMN NO. 134 verses 1, 2, and 4 *“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.
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

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

POSTLUDE

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Gordon Young

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
Ray Liptak, AV Engineer
Dennis Velez, Assistant AV Engineer
Matthew Califf & Michael Sperrazza, AV Team

✠ We are glad you have chosen to worship here today! Please come again!

✠ For more information about our church, please visit our website:

www.firstprescaldwell.org