

December 24, 2023

8:00 pm

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

“Renaissance Christmas”
“Noel”

Various
Louis-Claude Daquin

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 visceram eruerunt
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

The Heun Family

*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

Luke 2:1-14

Page 54, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Rejoice and Be Merry”

John Rutter

*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.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:1-17

Page 1, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“What Child is This?”

Howard Helvey

MESSAGE

“Skeletons in the Closet”

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The First Noel”

Cathy Moklebust

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“See Amid The Midnight Snow”

arr. Lloyd Larson

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Holy Night”

Craig Courtney

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 heaven 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 thy 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

FPC Chancel Choir

FPC Handbell Choir

Gramercy Brass Orchestra

Taylor Goodson, Percussion

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