

∞ ORDER OF WORSHIP ∞

December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve Service

PRELUDE "The Christian Church" by F. Mendelssohn

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God of Elizabeth and Mary,

People: you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Savior.

Leader: Our hearts leap with joy with the news,

People: and our mouths are filled with songs of praise,

Leader: that we may announce glad tidings of peace,

People: and welcome the Christ in our midst.

ANTHEM "A Carol Festival" arr. by Carl Strommen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Loving God, We know You protect us, even from ourselves. But as You know, we fall short. Guide us to give Your love and healing to those in need. Help us, Lord, to receive forgiveness and love as we confess those sins we commit, to see Your way to love others, and help us to see You in this world and each other. Thank you Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even as we all have sinned

People: You, Lord, continue to love all creation and bring us to Your Sabbath.

Leader: You, Lord, continue to forgive us and hold us in Your loving family,

People: And lead us as we confess and repent.

HOPE

Scripture/talk Luke 2:13-14

Hymn: #133 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Light 1st candle

JOY

Scripture/talk: Luke 2:15-18

Hymn: #145 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Light 2nd candle

PEACE

Scripture/talk Luke 1:26-35

Hymn: #148 "O Holy Night" (Doug & Olivia Barton)

Light 3rd candle

LOVE

Scripture/talk Luke 2:1-7

Hymn: #157 "Away in a Manger"

Light 4th candle

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Scripture/talk Rev. 22:12-21

Hymn: #143 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Light Christ candle

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.

* HYMN No. 147 "Silent Night! Holy Night!"
Lighting of individual candles

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Verse 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 th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Verse 2:

Christ by highest heav’n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin’s womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Verse 3:

Hail the heav’nborn Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun 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.”

Text: Charles Wesley, altered

Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn, arranged by William H. Cummings

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Verse 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!

Verse 2:

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav’n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Refrain

Verse 3:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv’n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Text: Latin Hymn; ascribed to Joh Francis Wade, translated by Frederick Oakeley

Music: *Adeste Fideles*, by John Francis Wade

Away in a Manger

Verse 1:

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Verse 2:

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Verse 3:

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Text: Source unknown, stanzas 1, 2; John Thomas McFarland, stanza 3
Music: *Away in a Manger*, by James R. Murray

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Verse 1:

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings
bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Verse 2:

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the
morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the
morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you, Christ the Babe was born
for you.

Text: Polish carol; paraphrase by Edith E. M. Reed
Music *W Złobie Leży*, Traditional Polish carol; arranged by Joseph Barlowe

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Verse 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.

Verse 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!

Verse 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,

Text: Joseph Mohr, translated by John F. Young
Music: Stille Nacht, by Franz Grüber