

Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24, 2024

Prelude and Chimes

In the Beginning was the Word

Reading: John 1:1-14

Rev. Clara Young

Lighting the Christ Candle

Trix Whitehall

"Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

¹³⁻¹⁴ At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:
Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

And the Light
Was not, could not, will not be dimmed

Tonight, we say:

Hope is realized.
Peace has come.
Joy is abundant.
Love is born.

We light the Christ candle in celebration of the birth of Jesus. And we join the angel chorus in worship this Holy Night.

***Hymn #1:** (Green Book) "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

The Prophets Foretold It

Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Mike Crompton

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Jan Derry

***Hymn #3:** (Green Book) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

***Invocation**

We come before you in awe, O God, freshly aware of your glory and your love embodied in the midst of this world. Here amid dirt and straw, amid the noise of cattle and the labor of birth, we perceive your work. We dare to believe that it is you, God, coming to be among us in Jesus, and so we praise you with songs of joy. Glory be to you, O God, now and forever. Amen.

Anthem: Baby Boy, by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Laura Knutson, violin

The Birth of Jesus

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Carla Crompton

***Hymn #8:** (Green Book) "What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest"

Time With Young Disciples

***Unison Prayer**

God who labors to bring forth abundant life among us, we thank you for the birth we celebrate tonight. A newborn bundle of human life can cause us to gaze for hours, amazed. Refresh our amazement that you sent Jesus from your very self, to be born a human baby, and to live among us, showing us the way to new life. In response to your great labor of love, we open ourselves to you, that you may create new life among us. In Jesus' name we pray as he taught us saying:

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.

Angels Appear to the Shepherds

Anthem: Glory Hallelujah! by Lloyd Larson

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Jim Miers

***Hymn #5:** (Green Book) "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Invitation to the Offering

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)

***Offertory:** Come to the Manger, Emmanuel by Patrick Liebergen

Carol Bellamy and Jim Miers, duet

Rachel Alexander, violin

***Doxology**

Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,
Whose Daystar shines for us on high,
Whose Spirit brings into our sight
The hope which to our world draws nigh. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Thank you, God of love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

The Magi

Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

Trix Whitehall

Meditation: "And the Light"

Candle lighting service with "Silent Night"

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly 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.

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.

Moment of Silent Wonder followed by extinguishing our individual candles

***Hymn #4:** (Green Book) "Joy to the World"

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

And the Light...

And the Light
Was not, could not, will not be dimmed

Deception
Despotism
Danger

Power corrupting: People despairing

"He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty."

And the Light...
Was not, could not, will not be dimmed.

Poverty
Predators
Promises

Faithful caring: Shepherds seeing

"and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people"

And the Light...
Was not, could not, will not be dimmed.

Inviting
Illuminating
Inquiring

Boundaries breaking: Wise Ones Kneeling

"and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

And the Light...
Was not, could not, will not be dimmed.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Clara Young, December 2024