

# WORSHIP ON THE EVE OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

Friday, December 24, 2021 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

PRELUDE Carols – Piano 4 Hand

Sergei Kvitko & Megan Hagle

OPENING CAROL

Once in Royal David's City 140

SOLOIST

*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.*

**CONGREGATION**

*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, oppressed, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CANDLE(S)

Ringlever Family

Reader 1: We have gathered to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is the Light of the World.  
Reader 2: May this wreath continue to remind us of the hope and joy that Jesus brings to the world.  
People: Lord, we gather with the people who no longer wait because you have come!

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

**CONGREGATION**

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!*

CHOIR

*Good Christian friends rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this~  
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!*

*CONGREGATION*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*(adapted from Presbyterian Outlook)*

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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

CHRISTMAS CAROL

O Come All Ye Faithful 133

*CONGREGATION*

*O Come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King angels!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

*True God of true God, Light from Light eternal  
Lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

CHOIR

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

*CONGREGATION*

*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:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

READING

Isaiah 9: 2, 6, 7

Before those people lived in darkness, but now they have seen a great light. They lived in a dark land, but a light has shined on them. A child has been born to us; God has given a son to us. He will be responsible for

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leading the people. His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Son of God, Prince of Peace His power will increase, and the throne of David and his kingdom will have endless peace. Justice and righteousness will be his authority from this time onward and forevermore.

## MUSIC RESPONSE

*Christmas Gift* by Sergei Kvitko

Sergei Kvitko

## READING

Gwen Botting

*Isaiah 11: 1-4, 6-9*

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and power, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord – and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper’s nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*Star of Heaven ,Child of God* by Diane Hannibal

Chancel Choir

## READING

Christopher Venetis

*Isaiah 40: 1-4*

Your God says, “Comfort, comfort my people. Speak kindly to the people of Jerusalem and tell them that their time of service is finished, that they have paid for their sins, that the Lord has punished Jerusalem twice for every sin they did.” This is the voice of one who calls out: “Prepare in the desert the way for the Lord. Make a straight road in the dry lands for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, and every mountain and hill should be made flat. The rough ground should be made level, and the rugged ground should be made smooth.”

## MESSAGE

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## OFFERING

## READING

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*Micah 5:2-5a*

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

**CONGREGATION**

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

**CHOIR**

*Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

**CONGREGATION**

*See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

**READING**

Christopher Venetis

*Luke 1: 26-35, 38*

During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you." But Mary was very startled by what the angel said and wondered what this greeting might mean. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has shown you his grace. Listen! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end." Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I am a virgin?" The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. For this reason the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God. Mary said, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.

**MUSIC RESPONSE**

*Pie Jesu* by Gabriel Faure  
w/Erin Schor, flute

Bells of First

**READING**

Gwen Botting

*Luke 2: 1, 3 - 7*

At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order that all people in the countries under Roman rule must list their names in a register. And all went to their own towns to be registered. So, Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, known as the town of David. Joseph went there

because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was now pregnant. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have the baby, and she gave birth to her first son. Because there were no rooms left in the inn, she wrapped the baby with pieces of cloth and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL

*Away In A Manger* 114

*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.*

*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.*

## READING

Christopher Venetis

*Luke 2: 8 - 16*

That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and they became very frightened. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all people. Today your Savior was born in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a manger." Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel, praising God and saying: "Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace among all people." When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about." So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a manger.

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*Still, Still, Still* by Norman Luboff

Chancel Choir

## READING

Gwen Botting

*Matthew 2: 1 - 11*

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. When Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, as well as all the people in Jerusalem. Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law and asked them where the Christ would be born. They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are important among the tribes of Judah. A ruler will come from you who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.'" Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men and learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. He sent the wise men to Bethlehem, saying, "Look carefully for the child. When you find him, come tell me so I can worship him too." After the wise men heard the king, they left. The star that they had seen in the east went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## READING

*John 1: 1 – 14a*

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In the beginning there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made by him, and nothing was made without him. In him there was life, and that life was the light of all people. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it. There was a man named John who was sent by God. He came to tell people the truth about the Light so that through him all the people could hear about the Light and believe. John was not the Light, but he came to tell people the truth about the Light. The true Light that gives light to all was coming into the world! The Word was in the world, and the world was made by him, but the world did not know him. But to all who did accept him and believe in him he gave the right to become children of God. They did not become his children in any human way – by any human parents or human desire. They were born of God. The Word became human and lived among us.

## CLOSING CAROL

*Silent Night, Holy Night*                      122  
*Please light your candles.*

*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.*

*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.”*

*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! Wondrous star, lend them light;  
 With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
 Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.*

*Please extinguish your candles.*

## BENEDICTION

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## POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World*                      134

*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.*

*Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

CHOIR

*Joy to the world! Sing alleluia, for Christ the Lord is born.  
Let earth receive her King:  
Repeat the sounding joy...*

CONGREGATION

*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, wonders of His love.*

*Carol arrangements, with Hand Bells taken from "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" arr by Hal H. Hopson*