

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2017

Prelude

Lullay My Liking

Holst

"Angels bright they sang that night
And saiden to that child,
'Blessed be thou, and so be she
That is both meek and mild."
(15th century)

* Call to Worship

Leader: Tonight we gather to hear good tidings of great joy!

People: Glory be to God on high!

L: We come together to sing and rejoice,

P: As we celebrate the wonder of God's coming among us!

L: We marvel at the gift of Holy Love,

P: Wrapped-up for the world in the form of a baby!

L: We pray that the Light of the Christ Child might shine upon our world tonight;

All: And that the Light of Christ's love might shine in our hearts forever!

* The Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

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]

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Creative Holy One, on this Holy Night we joyfully celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with songs of praise and stories of old. Energize our voices and inspire our hearts so that we might proclaim Christ's love wherever we go. Help us to trust that this love is stronger than fear; that your peace is more enduring than hatred; and that there is no darkness that can ever overcome your Light. Grant us a renewed vision of a world filled with your compassion and grace; and inspire us to help make that vision a reality. This we pray in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lighting the Christ Candle [from *Isaiah* Chapter 9]

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: Those who dwelt in the land of deep shadow, upon them has a light shined!

L: For unto us a child is born,

P: Unto us a Son is given.

L: And the government shall be upon his shoulders;

P: And he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace!

L: On this holy night, a light shines through the darkness.

P: It is the Light of Christ; it is the Light of Love!

L: Illuminate our lives, O Holy One, that we may receive you with joy!

All: Fill us with Your Spirit, that your Holy Light may shine in us and through us!

The Reading

Luke 2:1-7

The Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#133

The Reading

Luke 2:8-14

The Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

#125

The Reading

Luke 2:15-20

The Carol

What Child is This

#148

The Word

Let's All Take a Deep Breath...

Pastor Dave Shackle

Choir Anthem

Rocking

Czech

The Offering

UCC Christmas Fund

Offertory

Irish Carol

Traditional Irish, arr. Shaw

"Christmas Day is come; let's all prepare for mirth,
Which fills the heav'ns and earth
at this amazing birth."
Irish traditional

The Offertory

We praise the Babe this time of year,
Sing carols to him whom we hold dear.
Our love, His power we now proclaim,
We send our gifts in Jesus's name. Amen!

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

In That Stable

French, arr. Gounod

"In that poor stable
How charming Jesus lies,
Words are not able
To fathom his emprise!"

Esprit Fléchier (1632-1710), tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947)

The Blessing

** Sharing the Light of Christ*

Musical Offering

O Holy Night
[Kate Klonowski, soprano]

Adam

***The Carol**

Silent Night

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.

*** Benediction**

*** The Carol**

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
Let earth receive its 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 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.

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.

The Postlude

Glory to God in the Highest

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