

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2019

Prelude

From *The Baby's Family*

Villa-Lobos

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: In a conquered nation, in an oppressed city, to a migrant couple fulfilling government red tape, a little child was born.

People: In a musty stable, beside an overbooked inn, in an animal's feeding trough the newborn baby was cradled.

L: With an angelic chorus, under a shining star, in fulfillment of ancient prophecy, God's promises came true.

P: In the company of poor shepherds, in the presence of rich wisemen, the baby born for all was welcomed by all.

L: Or almost all, for Herod the King treasured power more, the Romans craved submission more, and the leaders of the people grasped their standing more than they desired God's presence.

P: We want nothing more than the baby, born to be a Savior, born to fill the world with love and justice. We welcome you once more into the world, Lord Jesus!

*** 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]**

Come, O Christ Child, come once more into the world you have made! Come and offer us a blessing. Come and bring us peace. Come and fill us with a hunger for justice and a thirst for communion with you. Come and embrace us with your love as Mary and Joseph once embraced you with their love. Come to your people once more this night and enter our hearts for another year of following you. Come, O Jesus, we await your presence.

Lighting the Christ Candle [from *Titus* Chapter 2]

Leader: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

People: training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright and godly,

L: as we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

P: He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: We light this Candle in honor of Christ

P: And pray that his light may shine on our church and our world this year. Amen

The Reading	Matthew 1:18-25	
The Carol	O Little Town of Bethlehem	#133
The Reading	Matthew 2:1-6	
The Carol	Angels We Have Heard on High	#125
The Reading	Matthew 2:7-12	
The Carol	What Child is This	#148
The Word	<i>A Christmas Gift</i>	Pastor Allan Lane
Choir Anthem	Make Room	Maher/Hall
The Offering		
Offertory	In the Bleak Midwinter	Holst

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!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music	Born in the Night, Mary's Child	Ainger, harm. Wetzel
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The Blessing

* *Sharing the Light of Christ*

Musical Offering	O Holy Night <i>[Kate Klonowski, soprano]</i>	Adam
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***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

In Excelsis Gloria

Brown