

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
**Thursday, December 24, 2020**  
**10:00 p.m.**

**Order of Service**

**Worship Music (YouTube)**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Chancel Choir

Chris Dortwegt, flute

Gustave Holst  
arr. Whitworth

*The Virgin's Slumber Song*

Karen Owen

Pattie Barnes, piano

Reger

*Away in a Manger*

Amy Vogt, oboe and Chris Dortwegt, flute

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

The Ostwald family — Ray, Leah, and Audrey

*African Noel*

Traditional African Carol

Abby, Andrea, and Mary Davenport, trio

Andrew Hesse, Julie Spring, and John Barnes, percussion

**Hymns (YouTube)**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Cassie Gallagher, leading our singing

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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**Thought for the Day**

*“God is constantly on the move. I cannot stay where I am and follow God at the same time; responding requires movement.”*

– Margaret Feinberg

**Gathering**

Tolling of the Bell

Words of Welcome

**Call to Worship**

Come away, come away, come today to Bethlehem.

**Come adore on bended knee, one whose birth the angels sing.**

Come away, come away from your noisy celebration,  
to a place of quietness and peace.

**Come with wonder, come with awe.**

**Take your place among sheep and cattle.**

***Sing with joy, praise God, for the time of promise has come.***

***Sing the good news of Emmanuel: God with us!***

***The Christ has come!***

Come away, come away, come today to Bethlehem.

**Amen.**

- Ruth C. Duck

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God, on this holy night, we gather together to give you thanks for Emmanuel-God with us. God with us, birthing hope in the midst of fear. God with us, creating peace in the face of hatred. God with us, nurturing joy where sorrow grows deep. God with us, exuding love amidst aching hearts. On this day and each, we give thanks for God with us a present far greater than any we'll unwrap. May we share this gift with the world. Amen.

## The 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory  
forever. Amen.

## Special Music *What Child Shall Come?*

arr. Liebergen

Grant Sahr and Ryan Doherty, duet  
Ray Ostwald, violin obbligato

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath at home

Carolyn and Patrick Donnelly

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath at church

John Smoke

*First Reader:* Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come. Help us to share your peace and love with others and live our lives more like Christ every day.

*Second Reader:* On this most holy day, we light all four candles in our Advent wreath, and we are reminded of the expectation, preparation, proclamation, and revelation of His coming.

**All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

## Special Music *O Holy Night*

Adolph Adam

Jamie Calandriello, solo  
Andrew Hesse, cello  
Pattie Barnes, piano

## A Moment for Children

John Smoke

Children are asked to please gather around your screen.

## Special Music *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Andrew Hesse, cello

## Community Prayers

## Reading of the Holy Scripture

Luke 2:1–20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

## Sermon

“Fear Not, There's Good News!”

Pastor Claude

## Our Tithes and Offerings

## Offertory

*A Christmas Blessing*  
The Chancel Choir

Philip W. J. Stopford

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Now we light the Christ Candle, we rejoice that the promise of God has been fulfilled in the coming of the baby born to save us all in a manger.**

## Candle Lighting Service and the Ringing in of Christmas

*Silent Night, Holy Night & Joy to the World*

arr. Anne Christopherson

Diane Hires and Pattie Barnes, piano duet

## **Christmas Prayer**

All Loving and compassionate God, we celebrate your goodness to us as we join the triumph and joy of Christmas. As your love has been revealed in all of its fullness, we pray that your care and kindness may overflow in our hearts and minds during this special day. Grant us the Spirit of Christ that we may live in the fullness of his character every day. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

## **Benediction**

### **Response and Postlude Music (YouTube)**

*Sussex Carol*

arr. Dan Forrest

Jamie Calandriello, Cassie Gallagher, and Judy Hanley, trio

*Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly*

Pattie Barnes, organ

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### **Assisting in Today's Worship**

Claude King, Senior Pastor

Andi Voinovich, Associate Pastor

John Smoke, Director of Christian Education

Wesley Dorr, Pastor of Youth Ministries

Maria Penrod, Seminary Intern

Pattie Barnes, Special Music Director and Organist

Carolyn and Patrick Donnelly, at home advent wreath lighters

### **Special Announcements**

Thank you to the many musicians who have blessed our worship today!

***Bold text indicates congregational response at home.***