

December 24 2008
11:00 pm

Christmas Eve
Candlelight

Coming Together in Christ

10:50 PM PRELUDE

(see back)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Silent Night

arr. Samuel Barber

Entering God's Presence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It's late. The light is gone and you are beginning to wilt.

People: Unto us a child is born.

Leader: It has been a long day, a busy day, a noisy day...so many people speaking, singing, so many messages being given.

People: Unto us a child is born.

Leader: Looking for a bit of peace, you walk away from the busyness and come to this place.

People: Unto us a child is born.

Leader: Unto us a child is born to lead, to transform. A birth to bring re-birth.
Unto us a child is born.

All: Praise the Lord!

* HYMN #41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

"Adeste Fideles"

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

SILENCE & AMEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (together) **Save us, Lord, from the temptation to buy what we do not need; from confusing what we need with what we want; from wasting what we do not own, from owning what we will never use; from idealizing the past as a golden age; from bequeathing our children a sorry inheritance. Strengthen the arm and will of all who, for the good of the world you made and love, challenge our lifestyles and inform us about appropriate living, loving and forgiving. May your word gain a good hearing so that the world may have a good future. Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON (Congregation & Choir)

#572, The Hymnal

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

* THE RESPONSE IN PRAISE

#579, The Hymnal

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: Light a candle in the darkness, Light a candle in the night, Let the peace of Jesus light us like a candle in the night.

People: He did not come in wealth and grandeur. He did not stand with men of power. He had no status to commend him. He was homeless, he was poor.
(Light the first Advent candle.)

But he came to heal the wounded and he came to heal the scars of a world that's bruised and broken where the image has been marred.
(Light the second Advent candle.)

And I feel his breath upon me and he whispers, "follow me". And he grants the fire within me and says "Let it shine for all to see."
(Light the third Advent candle.)

He walked among the lonely and the poorest of the poor. He gave his life to save us. He lives for evermore.
(Light the fourth Advent candle.)

Like a flicker in the darkness comes a Mother's desperate cry, then a baby's voice in answer brings the coming of the light.
(Light the center Advent candle.)

Leader: Light a candle in the darkness.

Hearing God's Word

* HYMN #38

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

"Carol"

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-20

CAROL BY THE CHOIR

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing: the Christ Child is born.

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

SCRIPTURE: John 8:12-15

CAROL BY THE CHOIR

In a Tiny Manger

Brazilian Carol

In a tiny manger the Baby is lying,
softly in the darkness his mother is sighing,
Slumber, my Baby, au-ru, au-ru.

Hush, my Child, so wakeful, may sweet rest God send you,
Angels in the heavens will guard and defend you.
Slumber, my Baby, au-ru, au-ru

Blessings on the children in God's gentle keeping,
Blessing their mothers who watch while they're sleeping.
Slumber, my Baby, au-ru, au-ru.

Our Response to God's Love

MESSAGE

John Dillon

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Please partake of the communion elements as you receive them.)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

The Christmas Song

Johannes Brahms, Arr. John T. Burke

The woods and fields were sleeping on that most holy night.
 The shepherds on the hillsides beheld a glorious light.
 From heaven an angel suddenly appeared to them and sang:
 "Peace on earth; Peace on earth goodwill to all mankind."
 Immediately the shepherds set out for Bethlehem.
 To guide their footsteps safely, a star shone forth to them.
 It led them to a manger stall where Jesus lay asleep.
 Slumber on, sleep, O child who brings peace to all mankind.

* THE DOXOLOGY

v. 6, #56, The Hymnal

**Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord.
 That hath made heaven and earth of nought. And with His blood our life hath bought.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* HYMN

*Night Has Fallen*Chewa Hymn, translated by T. Colvin
(Congregation and Choir sing together)

1. Solo: Night has fallen
**All: Night has fallen
 God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
2. Solo: Darkness now has come,
**All: Darkness now has come.
 God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
3. Solo: We are with you, Lord,
**All: We are with you, Lord.
 God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
4. Solo: You have kept us, Lord,
**All: You have kept us, Lord.
 God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
5. Solo: See your children, Lord,
**All: See your children, Lord.
 God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
6. Solo: Keep us in your love,
**All: Keep us in your love.
 God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
7. Solo: Now we go to rest,
**All: Now we go to rest.
 God our maker, guard us sleeping.**

Candle Lighting

* Hymn	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	(see bulletin)
* Hymn	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i>	(see bulletin)
* BENEDICTION		
* POSTLUDE	<i>In Dulci Jubilo</i>	J.S. Bach

* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand



Many thanks to The Sanctuary Choir, Brenda Luger, Flute; Jon Courtney, Baritone; Patricia Kelby, Mezzo-Soprano; and Director Judie Brown for tonight's special music.

Poinsettias for our shut-ins are on the table in the library.
Please take one on your way out and help spread the Christmas joy.



O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks Ralph Vaughan Williams

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Silent Night, Holy Night

Joseph Mohr Franz Xaver Gruber

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 Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour 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 thy light
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King
Christ, the Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Musical Preludes

Mountain Carol

Our Savior Christ is born, lift up your hearts and sing to welcome him so long foretold, God's Son, our heavenly King. While shepherds sleeping lie, bright angel hosts appear to bring God's message from on high: "Emmanuel is here!" The angel choir on high, proclaims his humble birth. Though in a manger rude he lies, God's son is come to earth. Praise God now everyone one. Rejoice, give thanks and sing with all mankind, both great and small, to welcome Christ and King! Our Savior Christ is born!

Appalachian Carol

I Saw Three Ships

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning.
And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas Day in the morning?
The Mother Mary and her baby, on Christmas Day in the morning.
He sat and smiled on her knee, on Christmas Day in the morning.
And all the bells on earth did ring, on Christmas Day in the morning.
And all the angels in heaven did sing on Christmas Day in the morning.

Appalachian Carol

Lullaby

Lullaby and good night with roses bedight,
With lilies o'erspread is baby's wee bed;
Lay thee down now and rest, May thy slumber be blest,
Lay thee down now and rest, May thy slumber be blest.

Johannes Brahms