

# CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00 P.M.

December 24, 2023

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## *Prelude*

## *Greeting*

## *Call to Worship*

Do not be afraid, for see I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people;

**To you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is The Messiah, The Lord.**

(Please stand)

## *Carol—O Come All Ye Faithful*

1. 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.**
2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten not created; **Refrain.**
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; **Refrain.**
4. 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.**  
**Refrain:** O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

(Seated)

## *Carol—O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Forest Green/British Tune)

1. 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.
2. 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 all on earth!
3. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-6

## *Sermon*

## *Anthem*

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* - Dan Forrest

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-35, 38

(Seated)

## *Carol—Away In A Manger*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:1-7

(Seated) ***Carol—It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: “Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.” The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

***Scripture Reading:*** Luke 2:8-14

(Seated) ***Carol—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” ***Refrain.***
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. ***Refrain.***
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. ***Refrain.***  
***Refrain:*** Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

***Scripture Reading:*** Luke 2:15-20

(Seated) ***Carol—Once In Royal David’s City***

1. Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed; Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. 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, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day, like us he grew; he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he know; and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.
4. 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.

***Anthem***

*Were You There on That Christmas Night? - Sleeth*

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

(Sing: *Love came down at Christmas, love, all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.*)

For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

**O come, let us adore him!**

For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

**O come, let us adore him!**

For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

**O come, let us adore him!**

For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!

**O come, let us adore him!**

(Sing: *Love came down at Christmas, love, all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.*)

*Anthem*  
*All is Well - Larson*

*Offertory - Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day - Howard Helvey*

***Prayer of Dedication***

Our thanks be to God, the creator

**Who brings us all that we have.**

Our thanks be to God, the Savior

**Who gives us back our lives.**

Our thanks be to God, the Spirit

**Who keeps us close by God's side,**

O Lord, take what we offer you—gifts of self, time, goods. Use them, for they are yours.

**Thanks be to God.**

In all things we listen for your voice, to do your will. Teach us to pray:

**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.**

*Doxology* (Tune #229, *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*)

**Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son,**

**Glory to the Holy Spirit, Glory to the three in one**

**Here we offer to you gladly, all the gifts that you impart;**

**As we glory in your presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

**Service Music:** Chancel, Epworth and Alumni Choirs; Phil Lantry, piano; Josiah van Dyck, oboe; Kristen van Dyck, violin