

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

December 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Downtown

ORGAN PRELUDE **Three Festive Carols** arr. Hayes and Gaspard

CHORAL PRELUDE **O Little Town of Bethlehem** arr. John Rutter
Sanctuary Choir

*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.*

*O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.*

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 in us today.*

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

CHORAL PRELUDE **The Work of Christmas** Dan Forrest
Sanctuary Choir

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins; to find the lost, to heal the broken,

To feed the hungry, to release the pris'ner,

To rebuild the nations; to bring peace among brothers,

To make music from the heart.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins.

CHORAL PRELUDE **To Thee My Heart I Offer** Elaine Hagenberg
Sanctuary Choir

To Thee my heart I offer, oh Christ-child sweet and dear;

Upon Thy love relying, be Thou ever near.

Oh take my heart and give me Thine and may it be forever mine,

*Oh Jesus, holy, undefiled, my Savior meek and mild.
What brought Thee to the manger, oh Christ-child sweet and dear?*

Thy love for me, a stranger, be Thou ever near,

Oh Lord how great Thy perfect Love, that reaches from the heavens above.

Thy love for us, by sin defiled, that made Thee, God, a child.

Let me be Thine forever, oh Christ-child sweet and dear;

Uphold me with Thy mercy, be Thou ever near.

Thy hand bestows Thy gifts to me and all I have, I offer Thee!

My heart, my soul, and all I own; let these be Thine alone.

CAROL OF PRAISE **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** arr. John Rutter

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born 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!"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

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 Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,

Pleased as man, with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

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 man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

WELCOME Pastor Amanda Davis

CAROL OF WELCOME **O Come, All Ye Faithful** arr. John Rutter

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;

O Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, All glory in the highest;

Repeat Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Repeat Refrain

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - CHRIST

7:00 The Gipson Family
11:00 Ruthie Estes and Nora Jaimes

SUNG RESPONSE

Go Tell it on the Mountain

#251

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – MISSIONS VIDEO

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Prayer

Pastor Amanda Davis

MINISTRY IN MUSIC

O Holy Night

arr. Morris, Bellah & Fisher

Sanctuary Choir; Cynthia Douglas, Soloist
*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared, and the soul felt His worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night divine! O night, O night divine.
Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name!
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever.
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
Fall on your knees O hear the angel voices.
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night O holy night, O night divine.*

OFFERING RESPONSE

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

#221

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Amanda Davis

Leader: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sins and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: **Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gift you gave freely. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you. We have not followed Christ, we have ignored your teachings, we have lived lives of apathy against your love, we have built fences and fortresses to push people away, and we have silenced the cries of those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin, free us from our captivity, free us to a life lived in Joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor Lance Richards

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

Leader and People: **Glory to God. Amen.**

GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard On High

#238

Refrain

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Courtney Hutchins

MESSAGE

Pastor Lance Richards

Glory to God in the Highest

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Lance Richards

CAROL OF PREPARATION **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

arr. John Rutter

**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.**

Men:

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;**

Women:

**Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

All:

**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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away and our loved failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream when nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war anymore. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send away empty. Your own Son came among us as a servant to be Emmanuel, your

presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night before he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** arr. Craig Courtney
Sanctuary Choir

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending comes our homage to demand.
King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.
Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its vanguard on the way;
as the Light descending from the realms of endless day,
comes, the powers of hell to vanquish, as the darkness clears away.
At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

Our Father which 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, for ever. Amen.

NATIVITY CAROL

How Great Our Joy

arr. Craig Courtney

Sanctuary Choir

While by the sheep we watched by night glad tidings brought an angel bright.

How great our joy, how great our joy.

There shall be born, so did he say, in Bethlehem a Child today.

How great our joy, how great our joy, how great our joy.

There shall a Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill.

Praise we the Lord, praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

SCRIPTURE

Pastor Lance Richards

Luke 2:1-20

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Silent Night

arr. Sandra Peter

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, 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 Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

BENEDICTION

Pastor Lance Richards

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Joy to the World

#246

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

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.

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus

George F. Handel

DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

ORGAN

PIANO

Dr. Terry Morris

Cynthia Douglas

Paul Butt

Jeremy Wood

STRING QUARTET

1st Violin

Boson Mo

2nd Violin

Patricia Quintero

Viola

Christine Elston

Cello

Louis Marie Fardet