

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE
FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
First United Methodist Church, Houston | Sanctuary (Downtown Campus)
December 24, 2023 | 11:00 am

PRELUDE	Chinese Dance and Dance of the Reed Flutes	<i>by P. Tchaikovsky</i>
CHORAL PRELUDE	Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies	<i>by P. Tchaikovsky</i>
*CALL TO WORSHIP	O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1, 3, & 6)	<i>arr. John Rutter</i>
	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;	
	<i>Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.</i>	
	Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (sing 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: (sing refrain)	
*WELCOME		Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
*CAROL OF WELCOME	Sing We Now of Christmas (vs. 1, 2, & 3)	UMH 237
	Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here! Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.	
	<i>Refrain: Sing we Noel, the King s born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!</i>	
	Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest, journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest." (sing refrain)	
	In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild, seated by the manger, watching the holy child. (sing refrain)	
LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Celebration of 2023 Ministry & Christmas Offering	Rev. Lance Richards
OFFERING PRAYER		Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Congregation
MINISTRY IN MUSIC	Do You Hear What I Hear? Sanctuary Choir	<i>by Harry Simeone</i>
	Said the night wind to the little lamb, "Do you see what I see? 'Way up in the sky, little lamb. Do you see what I see? A star, a star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite." Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, "Do you hear what I hear? Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear? A song, a song high above the tree with a voice as big as the sea." Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, "Do you know what I know? In your palace warm, mighty king. Do you know what I know? A Child, a Child shivers in the cold, let us bring him silver and gold." Said the king to the people everywhere, "Listen to what I say: Pray for peace, people everywhere! Listen to what I say: The Child, the Child sleeping in the night, he will bring us goodness and light, He will bring us goodness and light. Bring us light."	
*OFFERING RESPONSE	In the Bleak Midwinter (v. 4)	UMH 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.	
TIME FOR CHILDREN		Courtney Hutchins

CAROL OF PREPARATION	Angels from the Realms of Glory (v. 1)	UMH 220
	Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:	
	<i>Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.</i>	
THE FIRST READING	Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)	Brynn Peugnet
CAROL OF THE MOTHER	What Child is This? (v. 1)	UMH 219
	What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?	
	<i>Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.</i>	
THE SECOND READING	Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)	Tallis Peugnet
CAROL OF THE FATHER	Joseph's Carol <i>(sung to the tune of UMH 218: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear)</i>	
	When Joseph came to Bethlehem his life seemed all awry. His fair young bride was great with child he knew not how nor why. The angel told him not to fear to trust God's guiding hand. His Mary, whom he held so dear, was central to God's plan.	
THE THIRD READING	Luke 2:1-5 (NRSV)	Ashley Davis
CAROL OF BETHLEHEM	O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1)	UMH 230
	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.	
THE FOURTH READING	Luke 2:6-7 (NRSV)	Nathaniel Richards
CAROL OF THE MANGER	Away in a Manger (v. 1)	UMH 219
	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.	
THE FIFTH READING	Luke 2:8-14 (NRSV)	Tess Montgomery
CAROL OF THE SHEPHERDS	Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (v. 1)	UMH 240
	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!"	
	<i>Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"</i>	
THE SIXTH READING	Luke 2:15-20 (NRSV)	Anna Montgomery
CAROL OF BLESSING	Angels We Have Heard on High (R, vs. 1, 2, 3, 4, & R)	UMH 238
	<i>Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</i>	
	Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.	
	Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?	
	Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing, Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.	
	See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise, Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. <i>(sing refrain)</i>	

INVITATION, CONFESSION AND PARDON

Rev. Lance Richards

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Lance Richards

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Congregation

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895 (SPOKEN)

Rev. Lance Richards

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Sanctuary Choir

by Craig Courtney

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, Lord Most High!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Margle Family

*CAROL OF LIGHT

Silent Night

arr. Mark Hayes

**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, fill our hearts with Thy light. In the darkness may we shine
with the promise of love divine; light of heaven on earth, light of heaven on earth.**

**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!**

CHOIR ONLY

The Savior is born.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

*CAROL OF JOY

Joy to the World (vs. 1 & 4)

UMH 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

Good Christian Men Rejoice

arr. by J. S. Bach

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST

Paul Butt

SCRIPTURE READER

Ashley Davis

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOWNTOWN

Courtney Hutchins

SCRIPTURE READER
SCRIPTURE READER
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
SCRIPTURE READER
SCRIPTURE READER
FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR & DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS DISCIPLESHIP (DOWNTOWN)
SENIOR PASTOR
SCRIPTURE READER
PIANIST

Anna Montgomery
Tess Montgomery
Dr. Terry Morris
Brynn Peugnet
Tallis Peugnet
Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh
Rev. Lance Richards
Nathaniel Richards
Jeremy Wood
