

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
First United Methodist Church, Houston | Hinson Chapel (West Campus)
December 24, 2023 | 9:00 a.m.

PRELUDE Christmastime is Here *by Vince Guaraldi*

*CALL TO WORSHIP O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1, 3, 6) *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; *(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. Ken Coneby*

*CAROL OF WELCOME Hark! the Herald Angels Sing *UMH 240*

**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: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. *(sing refrain)***

**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. *(sing refrain)***

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Celebration of 2023 Ministry & Christmas Offering *Rev. Lance Richards*

OFFERING PRAYER *Rev. Ken Coneby*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD *Congregation*

MINISTRY IN MUSIC Do You Hear What I Hear? *by Harry Simeone*

Sanctuary Choir

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 (vs. 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.**
- *INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Rev. Lance Richards
- *PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Lance Richards
**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 Rev. Lance Richards
Hear the good news...in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.
- *GLORIA Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain) UMH 238
Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
- TIME FOR CHILDREN Mandy Jones
- *CAROL OF PREPARATION It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1, 2,4) UMH 218
ALL:
**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.**
- SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-20 Rev. Lance Richards
- MESSAGE Good News Causes Great Joy for All People! Rev. Lance Richards
- PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Lance Richards
- THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Rev. Ken Coneby & Rev. Lance Richards
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord!**
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**
...as we proclaim the mystery of the faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**
...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Congregation

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

by 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, Lord Most High!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Gallman 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

Hallelujah Chorus

by G. F. Handel

A Cry Room is available across the lobby next to the Women's Restroom.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

ORGANIST

Paul Butt

THE SOURCE PASTOR

Rev. Ken Coneby

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES WEST

Mandy Jones

GUEST CONDUCTOR

Greg Moore

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Lance Richards