A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m.

*All who are able may stand.
Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

Stil, Still, Still

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

The Prelude

The Welcome

The Introit

The Lighting of the Christ candle

The Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 9:2-7

p. 780 in the pew Bible

Prayer

Sung Response

Hymn 110 verse 1

Love has come; a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Spoken Response:

People of God, as we welcome Christ on this night of nights,
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*Carol 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Moklebust, arr.

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! Oh, come ye, oh, 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!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not
created! REFRAIN
Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
REFRAIN

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning. Jesus, to thee be glory given! Word of the Father, Now in flesh
appearing! REFRAIN

*The Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess we have not welcomed the light or walked in your ways with courage and joy. Too often, we close our eyes to glory in our midst. Too often, we stop up our ears to the song of great joy. This night of all nights, we come once again to behold the wonder of Jesus’ birth and offer ourselves in love for love’s sake. Forgive and receive us as we are; help us become all you intend us to be. Send us home by another way—your way of truth and grace and peace. In the name of your Son, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace. Thanks be to God.

*Sung Response:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!
*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ’s peace with someone outside your home this week.)

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD. . .**

The Prayer for Illumination

**The Birth in Bethlehem**  *Luke 2:1-7*

**Carol 145**

What Child is This

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthem sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

The Announcement to the Shepherds  *Luke 2:8-14*

**Carol 113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. REFRAIN: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? REFRAIN*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. REFRAIN*

The Visit of the Shepherds  *Luke 2:15-20*

**p. 71 in the pew Bible**

The Anthem  *Luke 2:15-20*

**In the Bleak Midwinter**  *Mark Hayes*

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow. In the bleak midwinter long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain. Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed. The Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air. But His mother only in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss. 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.*

The Meditation  *Handling Christmas*  *Kim Clayton*

**Invitation to the Table**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, The Lord’s Prayer

**The Lord’s Prayer**  *p. 35 in the Hymnal*

*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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Words of Institution

Communion
The Prayer after Communion

Holy God, like the shepherds long ago, we have come in wonder to behold your glory revealed. The One who was placed in a manger at his birth, has offered food to all at the table. We thank you for these gifts of bread and cup. May we rise up and follow, this night and always, in faithfulness. Amen.

Sharing the Light of Christ

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night!

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 Savior is born, Christ the Savior 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.

The Charge and Benediction

*The Hymn 134

Joy to the World!

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 heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Anna Laura Page

The flowers at the front of the Sanctuary are given by Joanne & Harry Farley to honor their grandchildren: Christopher & Nikolas Farley, David King III, Peyton King, Krista Farley, and Beatrice Farley

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preacher: Kim Clayton
Liturgists: Chris Hall, Jen Rowe
Choir Masters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey
Organist: Amy Shirk
Ushers: Linda Benn, Mike Gibson, Marsha Lucket, Helena Sidebotham
Greeters: The Chewning Family and The Nance Family
The Advent Lighters are the Hall Family