

Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

the Light of the World

A Service of Readings & Carols

Chalmers Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve 2022 7:00pm

Welcome to this in person and online Christmas Eve worship celebration. May peace and joy fill your heart. Please join us for Christmas Sunday worship on December 25th at 10am. A blessed Christmas to you.

Musical Prelude

Call to Worship Lighting the Christ Candle PWS&D Insert
Doug & Janet Bruce

Carol: *Oh come, all ye faithful* 159(vv. 1,3,5)

Opening Prayer

Old Testament

Reading: The Peaceable Kingdom Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9
Gord Vair

Carol: *See amid the winter's snow* 168 (vv.1,2,5)

Gospel

Reading: The Angel Appears to Mary Luke 1:26-35, 38
Andrew Thibodeau

Carol: *Angels from the realms of glory* 146 (vv.1,4,5)

Gospel

Reading: The Angel Appears to Joseph Matthew 1:18-23
Heather Reid

Carol: *Infant holy, Infant lowly* 143

Gospel

Reading: The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-20
Mary Vair

Carol: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* 139 (vv.1-3)

Gospel

Reading: St. John Unfolds the Great Mystery
of the Incarnation John 1:1-14, 16
Bill George

Choir Anthem: *All on a Bethlehem Night*, by Raney, Parker

Christmas Message: Home for Christmas

Carol: *Il est né / He is born* 169 (vv.1,3,4)

We Respond to God

Presentation of Our Gifts

Special Praise: *O Holy Night* Bob Finlay

Offering Prayer

Exchange of Christmas Peace

One: The peace of the Christ child be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Lighting of the Candles (LED tea lights and cell phone lights)

Carol by candlelight: *Silent Night* 154

Benediction

Closing Carol: *Joy to the World* 153 (vv.1,2,4)

Musical Postlude



Joy to the world

Isaac Watts

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.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
let us our 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, and wonders of his love.

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Oh come, all ye faithful

John Francis Wade, Translation: F. Oakeley

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

Oh come, let us adore him;
Oh come, let us adore him;
Oh come, let us adore him,

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks draw nigh with holy fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

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See amid the winter's snow

Edward Caswell, Music: John Goss

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below;
see, the Lamb of God appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain:

*Hail, O ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Say, now holy shepherds, say, tell your joyful news today;
tell us why you left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep.

Sacred infant, all divine, of God's tender love the sign,
for you came from highest bliss, down to such a world as this!

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Angels from the realms of glory

James Montgomery

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.

Refrain:

*Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear.

Though an infant now we view him, he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down.

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Infant holy, Infant lowly

Polish Carol, translation: Edith M.G. Reed

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new,
saw the glory, hear the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you.

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Hark! The herald angels sing

Charles Wesley, Music: Felix Mendelssohn

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 angelic hosts 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, the incarnate deity!
Pleased on earth with us 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 Son 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 the lost of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

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Il est né / He is born

18th C. French Carol, 19th C. Translation: Andrew Donaldson

Faithful sages through ages long,
prophets sang of the Saviour's coming:
faithful sages through ages long prophets sang of the promised dawn.

Refrain:
*He is born! Now the child has come! Fill all the air with our merry carolling!
Play the pipe, beat the joyful drum! Hope is born, for the child has come!*

Christ embraced our human form made the stable a holy dwelling.
Christ embraced our human form, dwell in us, well-beloved Son!

Jesus, Sovereign and Holy One. we adore you, before you kneeling.
Jesus, Sovereign and Holy One. Dwell in us, make our hearts your throne!

Words: English Trans. © Andrew Donaldson, 1997

Choir Anthem: All on a Bethlehem Night,

Raney/Parker

One quiet night when all was still, a weary couple came to town.
And in a stall upon a hill, great with child, the girl lay down.
And there was born the undefiled, the Son of God, a tiny child.
And Mary sang her praise to God all on a Bethlehem night.

Alleluia, what a night! Alleluia, what a sight!
Alleluia, Christ is born! All on a Bethlehem night!

Out in a field that special night, shepherds watching o'er their sheep,
saw in the sky a piercing light, an angel woke them from their sleep.
"Be not afraid," the angel said, "for lying in a manger bed
is Christ the Lord, born unto you. All on a Bethlehem night.

Alleluia, what a night! Alleluia, what a sight!
Alleluia, Christ is born! All on a Bethlehem night!

That holy night when Christ was born, God in the flesh became human.
This simple child, salvation's horn is now become redemption's plan.
For on the night when God came down, he laid aside his heav'nly crown
and took on flesh to bear my sin. All on a Bethlehem night.

Alleluia, what a night! Alleluia, what a sight!
Alleluia, Christ is born! All on a Bethlehem night!

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Silent night

German: Joseph Mohr, translation, John Freeman Young

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 'Hallelujah,
Christ, the Saviour is born! Christ, the Saviour 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.

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