

Worship Plan for December 24, 2025 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve (I)

Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2025

***Call to Worship for Christmas**

Let us go to Bethlehem

to see what has happened.

Let us go with the shepherds:

Let us go to find the Savior!

Let us go with the wise ones:

Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

Let us go with the poor and humble:

Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him:

Christ the Lord!

***Opening Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful* #283**

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

***GREETING** Pastor

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Blessed is the Luminous Night. The birth of Christ, our Light and our Life.
Glory to God for ever and ever.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES lector

We light the candles hope, peace, love, and joy this Christmas Eve to remind us of God's gifts to us through Jesus the Christ - the light of the world.

Jesus is the son of Mary and the son of God, one with us, our Lord, our Savior, our brother and our friend.

The Son of Mary brings us the hope of God.

The Son of God brings us the peace of God.

Jesus our Lord calls us to share this love with others

Christ our Savior brings us the joy of God.

We light the candles of hope, of peace, of joy, and of love to remind us of the gifts that the light of the world has brought us.

...(The Advent Candles are lit)...

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle to remind us that the light of the world was born this night.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them is light.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the
government shall be upon his shoulder.

**His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Amen.**

Story – The First Christmas

Hymn: *Angel appears to Mary.....*

**Infant holy, Infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing,
tidings bringing;
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!**

Hymn: *Angel appears to Joseph.....*

**O Little Town of Bethlehem how still we see they lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

Hymn *Jesus is born and the angels appear to the Shepherds*

**The First Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

Hymn *Shepherds run to Bethlehem*

**Go tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shown a holy light.
Go tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

Hymn *The wisemen arrive in Bethlehem*

**We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we travel so far.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star.
Oh, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding Guide us to the perfect light.**

Hymn *after the Conclusion*

**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.**

***Prayers** **lector**

God, on this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God **receive our prayer.**

On this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty. Holy God **receive our prayer.**

On this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God **receive our prayer.**

On this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Holy God
receive our prayer.

On this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to all on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in all the world.
Holy God **receive our prayer.**

On this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God **receive our prayer.**

On this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God
receive our prayer.

On this holy night heaven has come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God
receive our prayer.

On this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God
receive our prayer.

Pastor: God, on this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

*Offertory Response VERSE #3 ONLY

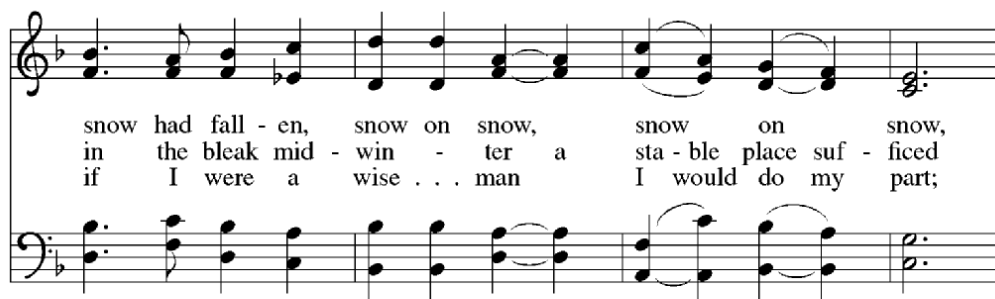
In the Bleak Midwinter



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



‡ in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heavens, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***(Pastor) THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

May the God of silent nights be with you!

And also with you!

Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

We lift them to the Lord..

Let us give thanks for our joy this night.

May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds in giving thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Glory to you, God in the highest heavens!

May peace fill the lives of all your children!

God, you crept into chaos so long ago,
so creation might be born:

Silently, you gathered up the dust,
shaping us in your image
as the Spirit breathed life into us.

All the gifts of your heart were for us,
but we slammed the door of our hearts,
saying there was no room for you in our lives.

Prophets came time and again,
scattering your clues throughout the Story,
but we were too busy engulfed in sin.
When you saw we could not
understand the Mystery on our own,
you sent Jesus, to reveal everything to us

Leaving your side, God of holiness,
your Child came to walk with us
through the cold streets of our lives.
Born in poverty's shadows,
he is the light which illumines
your heart for us.

On this night, when we celebrate the baby in the manger,
we remember that on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus
took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of
me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to
drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and
for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of
grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray using the words that Jesus taught us:

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 and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

*AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

~The First Nowell~

THE FIRST NOWELL
arr. John Stainer 1840-1901

Lamb of God you take a - way the ___ sins of the world; have

mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

God you take a - way the ___ sins of the world; have

mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

God, you take a - way the ___ sins of the world;

Grant ___ us peace, Grant ___ us peace.

COMMUNION

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #270

What Child is This #296

*COMMUNION BLESSING Pastor

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

(AM) POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

Merciful God, renew us by your Holy Spirit, poured out richly in this meal, and renew all creation with your loving kindness until all the ends of the earth rejoice in your salvation: through Jesus Christ the Word made flesh.
Amen.

***Candle lighting**

The glory of the Lord has been revealed
and all flesh shall see it together.

As a candle is lit

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.
The shepherds kept watch by night,
and your glory shone round about them.
The darkness is not dark to you,
the night is as bright as the day.
Let your light scatter the darkness
and fill your Church with your glory.

***Hymn- Silent Night**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

***Benediction**

May the blessing of God shine in you, the life of God that is the light of the world.

May the grace and truth of Jesus Christ grow in you.

May the Spirit of God be at home in your heart,
for God became flesh and came to be with us.

May the glory of God surround you and uplift you,
this Christmas time and for all eternity. **Amen.**

***Hymn- Joy to the World**

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

***DISMISSAL:**

A: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

C: **We go out to repeat the sounding joy! Hallelujah!**

Worship Plan for December 24, 2025 8:00 pm

Christmas Eve (I)

Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2025

Introduction to the day

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

***Christmas Proclamation Pastor**

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—
now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Pastor Christ is Born!

He is born indeed! Amen!

***Opening Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful #283**

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

***GREETING** Pastor

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

And also with you.

***Advent Wreath Candlelighting**

Assisting Minister:

Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

ALL: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.

Assisting Minister

We light these candles as signs of our hope, our peace, our joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! **Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise

Christmas Glory to God

~Joy to the World~

ANTIOCH, English Melody

arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord

8



God heav'n-ly King, — al-migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you

15

thanks, we praise you for — your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

23

Fa - ther Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way — the sin of the world — have

31 

40

seat - ed at the right hand of God the Fath - er: re - ceive our prayer — For

48



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most

53



High, Je - sus Christ, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***Prayer of the Day** Pastor

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when
dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their
shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of
Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments
rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born
for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is
named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Bell Choir Anthem: *Bring a Torch* by Joel Raney

***GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] Pastor**

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

Our Christmas Eve story comes from the Gospel of Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

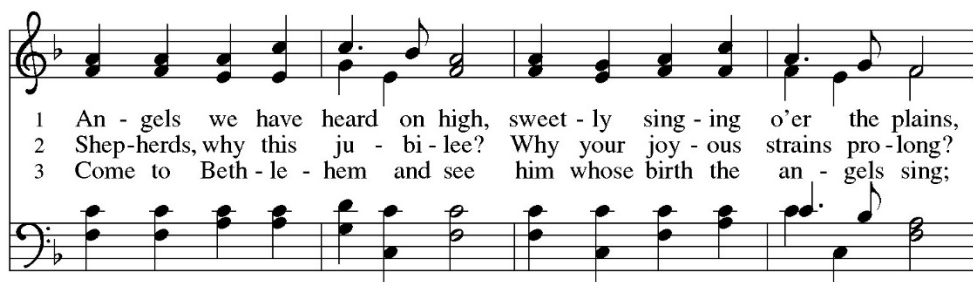
The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. To us is born a Savior.
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bell Choir Anthem: *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by Joel Raney

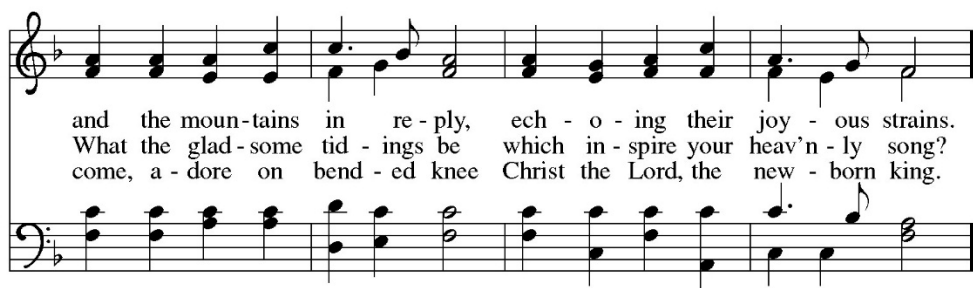
Sermon

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels We Have Heard on High



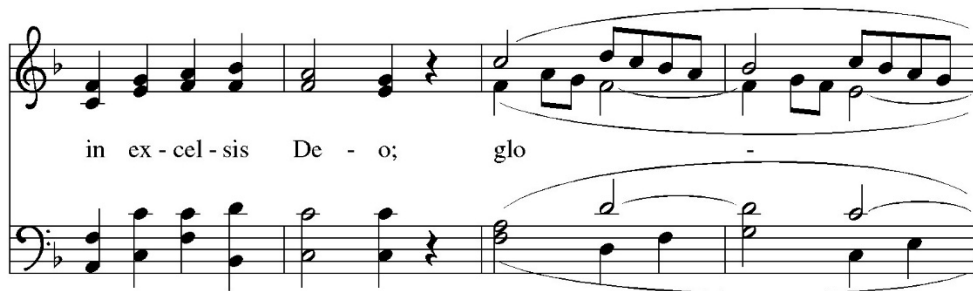
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

***Prayers of Intercession** **Assisting Minister**

God of our Salvation,
we come to you on this wondrous night to gather in praise,
to lift up your name with friend, family, and stranger.
In the beginning, your creative work began with a word,
and tonight, your creation continues with the Word made flesh.
On this holiest of nights, we join the everlasting chorus saying:

Glory to God on high!

Like Mary, we ponder these things in our hearts,
and wonder how you could love us so much
as to actually become one of us, one with us.
We remember these stories this evening
that remind us of your steadfast love,
that affirm that you have never, and will never, give up on your children.

Thank you for your steadfast presence in our lives!

And yet, even on this night on which we celebrate the fulfillment of love,
we recognize that there are many who are still waiting for fulfillment:
the fulfillment of adequate food and shelter...
the fulfillment of peace and the end of violence...
the fulfillment of a restoration of a broken relationship...
the fulfillment of a renewing of heart, mind, or body...
Giving God,

give us the courage to share your peace.

We pray this night especially for those who have traveled to be here...
for those who have lost loved ones in the past year...
for those who will be traveling in the coming days and weeks...
for those who work on Christmas:
especially medical workers, police, and emergency personnel...
for those who cannot make it home for Christmas...
receive our prayer, O God,

Restore us with your love.

Pastor

In all that we do and in all that we are,
send your Spirit to send us forward with the majesty of this night and to
share the grace we find with everyone we encounter. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering **Choir Anthem:** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*Offertory Response VERSE #3

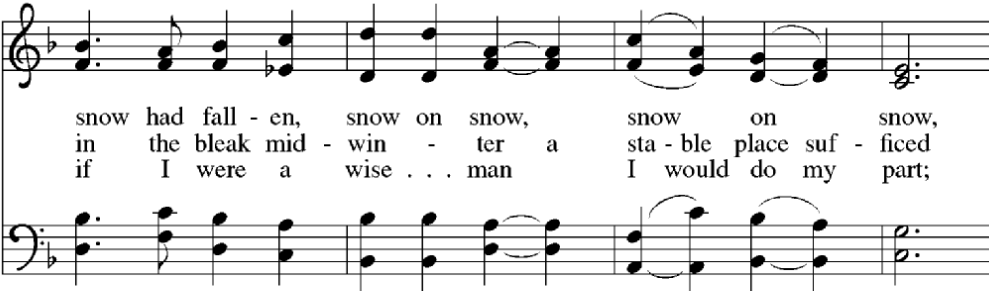
In the Bleak Midwinter




1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of wonder,

we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us, all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. **Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Great Thanksgiving

~O Come, All Ye Faithful~

ADESTE FIDELIS
attr. John Francis Wade

PASTOR: ALL:

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

PASTOR: ALL:

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*PREFACE

~O Come All Ye Faithful~

It is our right, our du - ty and our joy, that we should in

all pla - ces and times give praise to you, Al - migh - ty mer - ci - ful

God, through Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior, who born of Vir - gin Ma - ry and

by the Ho - ly Spir - it be - came man. In the won - der and my - st'ry

of the Word made flesh you've op - ened the eyes of faith to your glo - rious sight.

We may be drawn to God whom we can - not see. And

so, with choirs of an - gels with the church and hosts of hea - ven we

praise your name and join the un - end - ing hymn of praise:

***Holy, Holy**

Holy, Holy, Holy

~Angels We Have Heard on High~

French Carol

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might,

5 Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

9 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

13 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord, of the

18 Lord Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have granted to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh, the child of Mary; the Light of the world, our Immanuel. Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, that as your beloved children we may welcome our Savior who comes to us in his body and blood.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

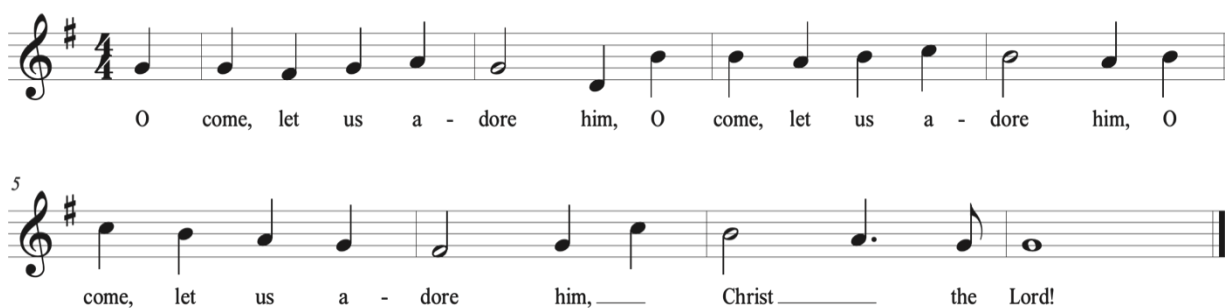
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

O Come Let Us Adore Him

~O Come, All Ye Faithful~

attr. John Francis Wade



With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen

~Hark the Herald Angels Sing~ Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

William H. Cummings, 1831-1915



***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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 and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

*AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

~The First Nowell~

THE FIRST NOWELL
arr. John Stainer 1840-1901

Lamb of God you take a - way the ___ sins of the world; have

5 mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

9 God you take a - way the ___ sins of the world; have

13 mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

17 God, you take a - way the ___ sins of the world;

21 Grant ___ us peace, ___ Grant ___ us peace.

COMMUNION

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

Choir Anthem: *Sussex Carol*

What Child is This? #296

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear #282

***COMMUNION BLESSING** Pastor

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

***Prayer after Communion** Pastor

Bread of heaven, let us not be unchanged by tonight. Let us not pass by the stable in silence; let us not leave the table empty. Dwell in our hearts, and shine in our lives, that we might know your deep, deep peace, and share it with the world. Fill us with your love, that we might walk hand in hand with you all our days. We pray in the holy name of the Christ-child, born for us this night. **Amen.**

Organ and Flute???

***Candlelighting**

Candlelighting Litany

(Lights gradually dim during the litany)

Pastor: God banished the darkness away in the light of the Christmas Star. God's light was found around a manger, a place where the Holy Child was given to sleep.

Asst.Min: God called to the shepherds through the voices of the angels whose first words were "Do not be afraid. There is Good News for you!" And in that instance, all the people who felt abandoned had Hope.

Pastor: The star shone brightly and shines brightly in our lives. Now no darkness can shut it out.

Asst Min: Receive the light and let its warmth and glow be in your hearts this night. The glory of the Lord shines around us on this night.

(The pastor, taking a large candle, lights it from the Christ Candle, which symbolizes Christ)

Pastor: The Light of the World. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth!

(Candles are lighted or tealights turned on)

(Ushers light their candles from the Christ candle and proceed into the congregation. Once a candle is lit it needs to be held straight so that wax doesn't drip. Put unlit candle on a ninety degree angle into a lit candle. Once the candle is lit, hold it straight up and allow the next person to take the flame from your candle. A lit candle should never be turned sideways. Also, be careful not to light the hair of the people around you. Children will have battery operated tea lights)

***PRAYER:** *Assisting Minister*

God of bright and shining stars, we come this evening with the reminiscences of the old, old story in our hearts. For many here, the story has been heard numerous times, flooding their lives with warmth and love. For others the story is new, causing wonder and surprise. All around us are symbols and reminders of the miraculous Birth.

Pastor

We see the greens which remind us of your eternal presence and love for us. The candles shed their glowing light helping us to remember the many ways in which you have brightened our lives and offered light to our journey. The colors, the music, and aromas, the people, invite us again into your wonderful presence in the world in the birth of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, on that silent night.

Assisting Minister

In this your creation, where there is such turmoil, shed your light anew, We ask your loving presence to be with those who do not believe in you or see very little impact in their daily lives. Let the Light of Jesus Christ penetrate that darkness and bring Hope and Peace to all your people.

Pastor

May the light of the stars which sparkled in those dark skies, again illuminate our lives, guiding, healing, leading us to you, Blessed God. As we gather in this time and place, hearing the story of that silent night, remind us again that you are born continually in our lives. **Amen.**

*** HYMN Silent Night #281**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

***Benediction** Pastor

Listen to the angels: fear not, this is good news!

Go like the shepherds to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.

Be like Mary, Treasure these words you have heard, ponder them in your heart.

And may the peace of baby Jesus give you good courage to go into the world, glorifying and praising God for all that you have seen and been told.

Amen.

***Hymn *Joy To the World* #267**

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

***DISMISSAL Asst. Min.**

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.