

# Service for the Lord's Day

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## Pre-Service Music

Wachet auf, BWV 645

J.S. Bach

Hayden Glasgow, Organ Scholar

## Concerns of the Congregation

### Call to Worship

Advent Candle Lighting

The Kramer Family

*One: Today, the fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also. From the Gospel of John we hear Jesus say to us in John 13:34-35: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

**All: Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. Amen.**

### Prelude

Gigue on *In Dulci Jubilo*

David Lasky

Hayden Glasgow, Organ Scholar

### Ringing of the Revere Tower Bell

Let the ringing of the bell call our attention away from ourselves and onto the living Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

\*Hymn #108 vs. 1 & 2

The First Noel

### Scene 1: Interior of Mary's home in Nazareth

#### \*Invocation

Julian Maxwell

*One: Lord Jesus, master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you, we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"*

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**All:** Lord Jesus Christ, you are loving and merciful. Forgive us for being so captivated by Christmas that we forget that you, the little baby in the manger, grew up as the Lord over all creation. It is sometimes easier to leave you in the manger than it is to reckon with your difficult teachings and fierce challenges. So often we do not follow these teachings, and we do not live up to your challenges. We need your grace and your strength to follow you more closely. Forgive us for all our sin, we pray.

### **\*Moments of Silent Confession**

#### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

Isaiah 55:6-9

*One: Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. This is our good news!*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

#### **\*Gloria Patri #575**

Glory Be to the Father

#### **Anthem**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Pageant Choir

### **Scene 2: The Inn at Bethlehem**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**All:** 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.

#### **Offertory**

Variations on the *Sussex Carol*, var. 5

Andrew Hackett

Andrew Hackett, Organist

#### **\*Doxology #572**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Hymn #117**

Silent Night

Pageant Choir Sing vs. 1

\*Congregation Standing for vs. 2&3

**Scene 3: Shepherd's field**

**Scripture Lesson**

Julian Maxwell

**Old Testament**

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

*Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**New Testament**

**Matthew 1:20-21**

*But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

*One: This is God's Word for God's People.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Wonders of His Love:  
A Savior is Born

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

**Scene 4: The Stable**

**Special Music**

Away in a Manager

Pageant Choir

**\*Hymn #120**

Joy to the World

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Variations on the *Sussex Carol*, var. 1, 2, & 6

Andrew Hackett

Andrew Hackett, Organist

\*Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the Kramer Family birthdays:  
in honor of Jeff Kramer and his uncle, Randy, and  
in memory of Nancy Haymaker, mother, grandmother, and sister.

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This morning we welcome the children and teens of Covenant-First Presbyterian Church as they participate this morning in worship and bring to life the Christmas Story in a new light. Our cast of characters is as follows:

Poet/Narrator: Paul Kramer

Angel Gabriel: Eli Maxwell

Mary: Celeste Hackett

Joseph: Claire Crousey

Innkeepers: Johnny Brantner and Jude Brantner

Shepherds: Kit Crousey, Evie Crousey, Eliana Dechter

Shepherd 1: Madeline York

Shepherd 2: Kit Crousey

Sheep: Emily Millhaem

Angel 1: Heidi Balz

Angel 2: Sophie Horst

Wise Men: Kit, Coursey Johnny Brantner, Jude Brantner

Sound Crew & Cast Manager: Josie Balz

Set Manager & Prop Design: Reagan McPhedran

Costumes: Josie Balz and Reagan McPhedran

Thank you to Amy Crousey and Marjeane Sallada for their creative adaptation of this program and for the weeks of dedicated rehearsal.

# 108 The First Noel, the Angel Did Say

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field . . . Luke 2:8

THE FIRST NOEL Irreg. Ref.

W. Sandys' Christmas Carols, 1833

Arr. by John Stainer, 1871

Traditional English carol

1. The first No - el, the an-gel did say, Was to cer-tain poor shepherds in  
2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin-ing in the east, be-  
3. And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from  
4. This star drew nigh to the north-west, O'er Beth - le - hem it  
5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full rev - rent - ly up -  
6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es to our

fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep-ing their sheep, On a  
yond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And  
coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in - tent, And to  
took its rest; And there it did both stop and stay, Right  
on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres-ence Their  
heav'n - ly Lord, That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, And

*Refrain*

cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
so it con-tin-ued both day and night.  
fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
o-ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
gold, and myrrh, and frank - in-cense.  
with His blood man - kind hath bought.

el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

JESUS CHRIST

# 117 Silent Night! Holy Night!

*And they . . . found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.* Luke 2:16

Joseph Mohr, 1818  
Trans. by John F. Young, 1863

STILLE NACHT Irreg.  
Franz Grüber, 1818



1. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,



'Round you vir - gin moth - er and Child, Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild,  
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia;  
Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.  
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth. A - men.





## **This Week at CFPC**

### **Sunday, December 18**

8:45 AM — Choir Rehearsal

9:15 AM — Adult Sunday School

9:30 AM — Teen Bible Study

10:30 AM — Worship with Children's Christmas Program

4 PM — Christmas Open House at the Cameron Home

### **Wednesday, December 21**

12 Noon — Brown Bag Bible Study

### **Saturday, December 24 — Christmas Eve**

No Men's Bible Study

6:30 PM — Christmas Eve Music Begins

7 PM — Christmas Eve Service

## **Planning Ahead at CFPC**

### **Sunday, December 25**

10:30 AM — Christmas Morning Family Worship

No Sunday School, children's programming and nursery during worship and no

Fellowship Time this Sunday

### **Wednesday, December 28**

No Brown Bag Bible Study

### **Saturday, December 31 — New Year's Eve**

7:30 AM — Men's Bible Study

### **Sunday, January 1 — New Year's Day**

10:30 AM — Family Worship

No Sunday School or Fellowship Time this Sunday



### **Looking Ahead — Christmas Eve**

Our Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will begin at 6:30 PM with a half hour of special music. Worship will begin at 7 PM. Scripture reading, carol singing, prayer, the lighting of the Christ Candle will all be features of the evening. A scripture meditation will be followed by singing of *Silent Night* by candlelight. We will conclude with a Christmas Blessing and the celebratory singing of *Joy to the World!*