

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Pre-Service Music

Partita on *Noel Nouvelet* David Lasky
Hayden Glasgow, Organ Scholar

The Trumpet Shall Sound, from *Messiah* George Fredrick Handel
Mark Hockenberry, Bass

O Holy Night Adolphe Adam, Arr. Craig Courtney
Mark Hockenberry, Bass

In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst
Hugh Ralston, Tenor

Gloria, from *Gloria* Antonio Vivaldi
Covenant Choir

Away in a Manger Arr. Andrew Hackett
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Fugal Fantasy on the Sussex Carol Arr. Andrew Hackett
Andrew Hackett, Organist

* * * * *

Welcome Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

***Opening Carol #109** Once in Royal David's City Bulletin page 7

***Call to Worship** Isaiah 9:1-5 Margaret Heidenreich

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

All: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

One: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice;

All: Let all of creation sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming.

One: He is coming to judge the earth and he will judge with righteousness and truth.

All: And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.

***Carol #102**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Bulletin page 8

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

Margaret Heidenreich

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.' "

Lighting of the Candle of Hope

***Carol #103**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Bulletin page 9

Prayer for Christmas Eve

All: Most Loving Father, thank you for this night and for all it represents. Thank you for the hope you bestow, the peace you bring, the love you pour out, and the joy you give. We praise you most of all for Jesus, your Word made flesh. May he light our way as the holy star lights the way for us to prepare for Christ's birth in our lives today. Amen.

Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Brian Calfano

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

***Carol #106**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Bulletin page 10

Anthem

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

Covenant Choir

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother? Or how can you write down a baby's first cry? Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow, shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing, "The Christ child is born."

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him, Seraphim 'round him, their vigil will keep. Nations proclaim him their Lord and their savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow, shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing, "The Christ child is born"

Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger. Christ our redeemer, asleep in the hay. Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation. A child with his mother that first Christmas day. Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow, shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing, "The Christ child is born."

Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Randy Page

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

***Carol #104**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Bulletin page 11

Anthem

Covenant Choir

Sai Sveta Naki
(This Holy Night)Christmas Melody from Latvia
Translated by Vance Wolverton

This holy night a heavenly light is beaming, all hearts respond in faith and love
now gleaming. The Son of God, his peace to us bestowing, while in a manger ox and
sheep are lowing.

This holy night we come to him with singing, in him all hope and love and joy
upspringing. He teaches us to love and help each other, and look to him for guidance as a
brother.

This holy night the starry gates stand open. His light springs forth to show the way to
heaven. So God to us his only Son entrusting, as on our heads he showers forth his
blessing.

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Marney Weis

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks
at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around
them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you
good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Sav-
ior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will
find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and
saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his
favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to
one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord
has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the man-
ger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them
about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to
them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shep-
herds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen,
which were just as they had been told.

Lighting of the Candle of Love***Carol #113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Bulletin page 12

Meditation

Sore Afraid

Rev. Dr. Robert C. Anderson

Christmas Offering

This year, for our annual Christmas Mission Offering, we're partnering with the Evangelical Church in Niger (the EERN) in their one well/one evangelist project. Niger is the poorest country on earth, according to United Nations statistics, and many communities lack safe drinking water. The EERN is committed to building churches in every province in Niger, and often starts by digging wells to provide needed water in the community. Depending on the location and depth of the well, a new well costs at least \$4,000, sometimes as much as \$15,000. We're hoping to collect enough money to fund one well. To contribute mark a pew envelope "Christmas." All loose or undesignated gifts will be used to support the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Thank you for being generous!

Offertory

Christmas Sanctus

Susan and Lee Dengler

The Covenant Choir

See the weary pair, nestled in a stable bare, gazing at their baby boy, filled with love and praise. Earth and heaven sing, worshipping the newborn king, who has come to change the world. Join in songs and praise.

Refrain: Holy, holy, holy is the blessed one. Heav'n and earth are filled with your glory.
Holy, holy, holy is the promised Son. Glory be to God in the highest!

See the shepherds run, searching for God's precious son; kneeling at his manger bed, filled with love and praise. Every knee will bow, ev'ry tongue confessing now, Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Join in songs of praise.

Refrain

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Dr. Robert C. Anderson

Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-5, 14

Heidi Balz

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

***Carol #110**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Bulletin page 13

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Millhaem Family

One: Tonight we conclude our time of Advent waiting. We've lit the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. Now is the time for our expectancy to be fulfilled as Jesus begins to birth his purposes in our own lives. With grateful thanks for the birth of our Savior we light the Christ Candle whose light will burn eternal in our hearts.

All: Almighty God, we thank you for Jesus' gift of your love born among us that we may know the light of eternal life. Help us to carry this light in our hearts, shining in the world to show the way of God's life and love. Amen.

***We Welcome the Light of Christ**

The ushers will come forward and light the candles for the people seated at the ends of the pews. As your candle is lit, please pass the light to the person seated next to you. Remember the person with the unlit candle should tilt theirs toward the lit candle to prevent the hot wax from dripping. Keep passing the light until all candles are lit.

***Carol #117**

Silent Night, Holy Night

Bulletin page 14

During the singing of Silent Night, please raise your candle when the pastor indicates.

***Christmas Blessing**

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

Please extinguish your candle

***Christmas Greeting**

***Carol of Celebration #120**

Joy to the World

Bulletin page 15

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

Please deposit your candles in the metal receptables at the back of the sanctuary when leaving.

Thank you to all who donated the poinsettias that are decorating the sanctuary this evening; a list of donors is included in this bulletin. Donors are encouraged to leave their plants until after Christmas Day worship or they may take their plants home after the conclusion of this service.

Once in Royal David's City 109

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior . . . Luke 2:11

IRBY 878777

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848

Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly cat - tle
2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is God and Lord of
3. Je - sus is our child-hood's pat - tern, Day by day like us He
4. And our eyes at last shall see Him, Thro' His own re - deem - ing

shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by In a
all, And His shel - ter was a sta - ble, And His
grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, Tears and
love; For that child so dear and gen - tle Is our

man - ger for His bed: Ma - ry was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall: With the poor, and mean, and
smiles like us He knew: And He feel - eth for our
Lord in heav'n a - bove, And He leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child,
low - ly Lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
sad - ness, And He shar - eth in our glad - ness.
on To the place where He is gone.

HIS BIRTH

102 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

The desire of all nations shall come . . . Haggai 2:7

HYFRYDOL 8787D.

Charles Wesley, 1744

Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830
Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. Come, Thou long ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king.

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

Dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
By Thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne. A - men.

Music from "The English Hymnal," used by permission of Oxford University Press.

JESUS CHRIST: HIS ADVENT

O Come, All Ye Faithful 103

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem . . . Luke 2:15

Latin hymn
Attr. to John F. Wade, 1751
Trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irreg. Ref.
John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
2. God of God, and Light of Light be - got - ten,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Lo, He ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
O sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels;
Ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord. A-men.

HIS BIRTH

106 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

And suddenly there was . . . a multitude of the heavenly host praising God . . . Luke 2:13

MENDELSSOHN 7777 D. Ref.

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

Charles Wesley, 1739

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King." A - men.

JESUS CHRIST

104 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace . . . Luke 2:14

Edmund H. Sears, 1849

CAROL C.M.D.
Richard S. Willis, 1850

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - tening on, By proph - et seen of old,

From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world:
Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
When, with the ev - er - cir - cling years, Shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good-will to men, From heav'n's all - gra - cious King”: The
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing: And
Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing: O
When the new heav'n and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King, And

world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing.
the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

JESUS CHRIST

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace . . . Luke 2:14

GLORIA 7777 Ref.
Traditional French melody

Traditional French carol

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shepherds, 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;
4. See with - in a man - ger laid Je - sus, Lord of heav'n and earth!

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, With us sing our Sav - ior's birth.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

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

110 Angels from the Realms of Glory

We ... are come to worship Him. Matt. 2:2

REGENT SQUARE 8 7 8 7 8 7

James Montgomery, 1816

Henry T. Smart, 1867

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen His na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In His tem - ple shall ap - pear:

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King. A - men.

This tune in a lower key. No. 185