



Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24, 2021

*Please stand as you are comfortable

Prelude

Music of the Season

Greeting and Announcements

Pastor Beth

*Call to Worship

One: On this night we gather at the meeting place of heaven and earth

All: Where eternity enters time, human form hosts the divine.

One: Tonight God unleashes holy imagination sending Peace, Hope, Joy and Love

All: to be born again in every heart, so let us each take up our part,

One: and tell the story once more this eve

All: so that all may rejoice and believe.

*Opening Hymn UMH #240

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1 & 3)

MENDELSSOHN

1. 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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun 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 us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1734 Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

First Reading

Matthew 1:18-24, Luke 1:26-38

Special Music "Tiny Hand in Mine" Barker/Hayes
Paula Jameson, solo

Second Reading Luke 2:1-7

***Hymn** UMH #217 "Away in a Manger" (1 & 3) **AWAY IN A MANGER**

1. 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.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Words: Anon. (Lk. 2:7) Music: James R. Murray, 1887

Third Reading Luke 2:8-20

Special Music "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Regney & Shayne
Tom Messmore, solo

Final Reading Matthew 2:1-12

Special Music "The Birthday of a King" William H. Neidlinger
Tom Messmore, solo

Children's Moment Lighting the Candles of Advent

Hymn UMH #230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (1 & 4) **ST. LOUIS**

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868 Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

Message **Beyond Imagining** Pastor Beth

Musical Response "The Light of Christmas" Joel Raney
Aysen Milligullari and Sinamar Pascua Respicio

Lighting the Christ Candle

Sharing Christ's Light Congregational Candle Lighting

1. 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.

2. 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!

4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young; Music: Franz Gruber, 1818

Benediction

Pastor Beth

We've heard the story once more this night and now we too hold Christ's light, let our hearts blaze with God's love and peace, let our spirit of hope and joy never cease, go forth friends in a merry Christmas way, ready for the celebration of tomorrow's new day. Amen.

*Postlude Hymn UMH #246

“Joy to the World” (vs. 1 & 4)

ANTIOCH

1. 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.

4. 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

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719 Music: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848

A huge thank you to all of the staff and volunteers who made tonight possible!

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