

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Dec. 24, 2020

Worship Notes

Thank you for sharing this worship service with us. While our hearts long to be together in the Sanctuary for this holy night, we are thankful for the gifts of technology that allow us to continue to share in meaningful worship in a safe way. This service is not perfect but was put together with an abundance of love. We hope that you will feel this love, as well as the grace and peace of God. So, in true Christmas Eve fashion, grab a candy cane to enjoy, get your candle ready for Silent Night, and worship with joy the coming of the Christ Child!

GATHERING MUSIC

“Gesu Bambino”

GATHERING

Hope looked down and saw darkness and despair.

"I will go there," said Hope.

Peace looked down and saw human conflict.

"I will go there," said Peace.

Joy looked down and saw sadness.

"I will go there," said Joy.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there," said Love.

So the Lord of Hope, the Prince of Peace, giver of Joy,
the King of Love;

came down and crept in beside us.

PRELUDE

"Silent Night"

Kaleigh and Erika Connor, piano

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (The Hart Family)**

CAROL NO. 25

“Away In A Manger”

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.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

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

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Though we worship in our own spaces this night, the Prince of Peace comes to us again. In

the spite of our distance, He dwells among us. You are invited now to share peace and love with those worshipping with you and to extend that peace to others through a phone call, text, or email.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***CHRISTMAS PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND FORGIVENESS**

On this holy night, we gather because we can hardly contain our joy at the news of our Savior's birth. Our Advent expectation and anticipation take the form of a star shining in the night sky. We await, with anxious breath the declaration "It's Christmas!"

"Holy One" who comes to us this Holy Night, help us to not celebrate a birth that happened long ago, but also embrace the news that "Emmanuel" has come and is, even now, with us.

God is with us, now, and just as real as bright lights and wrapped gifts and carols sung and "Merry Christmas!" Help us, Lord Jesus, to wake up to your presence, even as we open our presents. Fill us with such joy that we have no choice but to declare with Shepherds, Wise Men, blazing stars and angels singing – Christ the Savior is Born!

(sung)

Down in a lowly manger, our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM LUKE 2:1-20

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Some Children See Him"

Patt Martin-McNorton

THE CHRISTMAS STORY "IN THE WORDS OF HUPC YOUTH"

CHRISTMAS STORY TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Dr. David Lee

CAROL

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come,

Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

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.

A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(From *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems)

The Christmas spirit
is that hope
 which tenaciously clings
 to the hearts of the faithful
and announces
 in the face
 of any Herod the world can produce
 and all the inn doors slammed in our faces
 and all the dark nights of our souls
that with God
 all things still are possible
that even now
 unto us
 a Child is born!

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

During the season of Advent, we have lit the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, brightening the darkness with the promise of Christ's coming.

The prophet calls, "Arise, shine, for your light has come."

And the psalmist sings in reply, "The Lord is my light and salvation."

Jesus himself declares, "I am the light of the world."

As we share the light this night, we joyfully testify to the world:

Christ has been born! Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

(you are invited to light your candles and sing along)

***CAROL AND SHARING OF THE LIGHT NO. 60**

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

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: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior 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.

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.

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION BEFORE THE NIGHT**