

Christmas Eve Worship 2018



~Illustration from the Saint John's Bible

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." ~John 1:14*



The Music Prelude

*(The congregation is asked to remain silent during the prelude
as a time of prayer and meditation.)*

Pastorale in G from the Nativity Concerto, Op. 6
Arcangelo Corelli
Gregory Land, Organ

Ave Maria
Bach/Gounod
Jeanne Kallenberg, Piano and Carol Suddath, Cello

Prelude on "Greensleeves" (What Child Is This?)
Richard Purvis
Gregory Land, Organ

Away In a Manger
William J. Kirkpatrick
William Henry Caldwell, Baritone
Gregory Land, Organ

Carol of the Bells
Ukrainian Carol
Gregory Land, Organ

Coventry Carol
Anon. 1591
Mary Stucky, Mezzo Soprano and Rodney Stucky, Lute

Lo, How a Rose
15th Century Melody set by Michael Praetorius
Mary Stucky, Mezzo Soprano and Rodney Stucky, Lute

In Dulci Jubilo
J. S. Bach
Gregory Land, Organ

Enter In Praise to the Lord

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

A three-fold ringing of three signifies the presence of the triune God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

CHORAL INTROIT

Let the Mountains Shout for Joy
C. Albert Scholin

*Let the mountains shout for joy, let the valley sing, and the hills rejoice,
let them all break forth in to song, let them shout and sing, and be glad before the Lord.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 52:7-8

Rev. David Coggins

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#102 *Joy to the World!*
ANTIOCH

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Tom & Janet Lasley and Family

Throughout the Advent season, we have celebrated God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. Jesus coming to us was the Gift that made all those other gifts real in our lives. As we light the Christ Candle, we celebrate the coming of God in human form, bringing light to all the world.

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, by the birth of your holy child, Jesus, you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. As we hear your word this evening, grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever brightening hope of everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Holy Hush" v. 5
SCHELL, DILL, ARR. R. LANDIS

The One True Light, the Word made flesh for - e - ver - changed our ways; The

5 Sa - vior born in Beth - le - hem is Lord of all our days. Sing at Christ - mas, Cel - e -

10 brate joy! God's Love is here Al le lu ia, Al le lu ia, Al le lu ia!

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

Tim Holmen

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You 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.
For 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.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People: Thanks be to God!

FELLOWSHIP HYMN

#103 O Come, All Ye Faithful
ADESTE FIDELES

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with the Christmas text from which it is named.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:1-14

Rev. Alspaugh

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord according to John.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the

darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

CHRISTMAS ANTHEM: "Christmas Day" (Gustav Holst)

Chancel Choir

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say: News! Jesus Christ is born today: Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now, Christ is born today! Christ is born today! Good Christian men rejoice. God rest you merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay, remember Christ our savior was born on Christmas Day, to save us all from woe and sin, when we were gone astray, O tidings of comfort and joy. In Bethlehem, in Jewry this blessed babe was born and laid within a manger upon that holy morn; that which his mother Mary did nothing take in scorn, O tidings of comfort and joy. Good Christian men rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; Joy, joy, Jesus Christ was born for this; He hath opened the heavenly door and man is blessed evermore Christ was born for this. Come ye lofty come ye lowly let your songs of gladness ring, in a stable lie the Holy in a manger rest the King: See in Mary's arms reposing, Christ by highest heaven adored; Come your circle round him closing, pious hearts that love the Lord. Come ye poor no pomp of station, robes the child your hearts adore; He the Lord of all salvation, shares your want, is weak and poor; Oxen round about behold thee; rafters naked cold and bare, see the shepherds, God has told them that the prince of life lies there. Come ye children blithe and mercy this one child your model make; Christ holy leaf, and berry, all be praised for His hear sake; come ye gentle hearts and tender come ye spirits keen and bold; all in all your homage render weak and mighty young and old. High above a star is shining and the Wisemen haste from far; come glad hearts and spirits pining for you all has risen the star. Let us bring our poor oblations thanks and love and faith and praise come ye people come ye nations, all in all draw nigh to gaze. Now to the Lord sing praises all you within in this place, and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace, this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface, O tidings of comfort and joy. Now ye need not fear the grave, peace, Jesus Christ was born to save; Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall; Christ was born to save.

SERMON: "Breath of Life"

Rev. Coggins

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "This Little Babe" (Benjamin Britten)

Chancel Choir

The text by Gerald Bullett is mainly in Middle English with some Latin and Early Modern English.

This little Babe so few days old, Is come to rifle Satan's fold; all hell doth at his presence quake, though he himself for cold do shake; for in his weak unarmed wise the gates of hell he will surprise. With tears he fights and wins the field, his naked breast stands for a shield, His battering show are babish cries, His arrows looks of weeping eyes, His martial ensigns colds and need, feeble flesh his warrior's steed. His camp is pitched in a stall, His bulwark but a broken wall; the crib his trench, haystalks his stakes; of shepherds he his muster makes, and thus as sure his foe is wound the angels' trumps alarum sound. My soul with Christ join thou in fight; stick to the tents that he hath pight, within his crib is surest ward; this little Babe thy guard. If thou will foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

#129 "Jesus, the Light of the World"
WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

Hark the herald angels sing. Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the light of the world.
We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dew-drops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Tim Holmen

Holy Communion

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Coggins

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to You, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn.

SHARING THE BREAD

Rev. Coggins

#117 "Still, Still, Still" (Chancel Choir & Congregation)

SHARING THE CUP

Rev. Alspaugh

#131 "In the Bleak Midwinter" (Chancel Choir & Congregation)

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING
& THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Alspaugh

The Service of Candlelighting

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*CLOSING HYMN

#134 *Silent Night, Holy Night*
STILLE NACHT

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Coggins

POSTLUDE: "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" (French Carol; setting by Keith Chapman)

Gregory Land

Poinsettia Dedications

Jason Alspaugh & Kerby Downs

*In honor of
Herbert & Nancy Downs*

The Beam Family

*In loving memory of
Libby Hornbeck*

Gerald & Irene Busch

*In memory of
Sally Holcomb*

David & Peggy Coggins

*In memory of
Janet & Bob Moore*

Mark & Merriann Craig

*In memory of
Ruth Howell, Roger Craig,
Tom & Louella Fenner,
John & Janice Bolon*

*In honor of
Marilyn Craig*

Donna & Bob Curry

*In memory of our fathers,
Glen Miles and Robert Curry*

*In honor of our mothers,
Lois Miles and Norma Curry*

*In honor of our grandchildren~
Sam, Harper, Louisa, Vivian,
Afton and Molly*

Ted & Gina Greenwood

*In memory of Gina's parents,
David & Jeanne Hanson*

The Gruszecki Family

*In honor of all our family,
near and far.*

Tom Huguley

*In loving memory of
Merry V. Huguley and
Susan H. Johnson*

Bob & Nancy Kerr

*In memory of our parents,
Bob & Ellen Kerr
Leon & Ruth Arrasmith*

R. Alan Kimbrough

*In memory of all former members of
the Chancel Choir who now sing on
another shore.*

Janet & Ray Landis

*In memory of
Jim Landis and Patti Landis*

*In honor of
Rev. Kate Landis, and
Thomas & Kelly & Naomi Landis*

Tom & Janet Lasley

*In memory of
Mark Lasley and
Orlan Cooper Jr.*

*In honor of our
eight grandchildren*

Betty Lentz

*In memory of
loved ones*

*In honor of the
First Baptist Chancel Choir*

Greg Merkle

*In honor of my mom,
Catherine Merkle*

*In honor of my dad,
Arthur Merkle*

*In honor of my sisters,
Debi and Barbara
and their families*

John & Shirley Nash

In memory of our parents

Ron & Diana Petry

*In memory of our parents~
Don & Ilene
Willis & Helen*

Roger & Joanne Stephens

*In memory of our parents~
Ira & Harriet Stephens
Art & Marian Benedict*

Anita Suro

*In thanks to my
First Baptist Family*

Jim & Anne Veghte

*In memory of the
Dyer and Veghte Families*

Jon & Julie Wolfe and Family

*In memory of
loved ones*

Richard & Peggie Worthey

*In memory of
Rev. C. Roland Marcus*

*In honor of
Rev. Jim Earnest*



*Thank you to those who
contributed to our beautiful
array of poinsettias. You are
invited to take plants home
after service tonight.*

