

<https://youtu.be/kBhr6HLi9Is>

First Presbyterian Church

Founded 1847

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020

7:00pm



Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Stephanie Ells

Prelude

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”

arr. West

For Silent Prayer and Reflection: God, we see your light shining in the darkness. We hear the Christmas angels. We behold your promises fulfilled in the birth of this wondrous child. May this magical story become real in our lives.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Herbst Family

Call to Worship

Light the lamps, prepare the room,
God is coming to us!

**Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God’s most gracious gift,
God’s Son, Jesus Christ.**

Push the darkness away.

The light is truly coming!

**May God’s light shine on us,
in us and through us that God’s glory may be seen. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Gathering Carol #198

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” vv. 2, 3

In Dulci Jubil

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this;
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Prophecies from Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold

Richard and Elaina Biechler

Prayer of Preparation

Surprising God, open our ears to hear this familiar story, as if for the first time. Open our eyes to see the diverse cast gathered at the manger. Open our hearts to the power of your love as revealed in this amazing story. Open our lives to the possibility of transformation, as we encounter once again God-With-Us, Emmanuel. Amen.

Carol #190

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” vv. 1,2

Es Ist Ein Ros'

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

The Angel Gabriel visits Mary

Luke 1:26-38

Mary is visited by the Angel Gabriel

Hunter & Jonah Brehm

Special Music

“Mary, Did You Know?”

arr. Schrader

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem

Adrian & Jackson Huisman

Carol #203

“Away in a Manger”

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 Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side until 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.

The Angels

Luke 2:8-14

The angels proclaim the birth of a Savior

Lynn Sutter

***Carol #188**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem, and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

The Shepherds

Children's Message

Rev. Stephanie Ells

Special Music

“I Wonder as I Wander”

I Wonder As I Wander

The Mystery of the Incarnation

John 1:1-14

John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation

Annette and Carlie Boelk

Response to the Word

We thought we lived in the light, but the darkness of fear, anger, and alienation had taken over. We wondered where God was.

God banished the darkness away when a child was born to us in a manger.

God called to the shepherds through the voices of the angels whose first words were "Do not be afraid. There is Good News for you!"

In that instance, all the people who felt that God didn't care about them had Hope.

The star shone brightly and shines brightly in our lives.

Now no darkness can shut it out.

Salvation has come to all the earth.

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Go, tell the Good News. Christ is born!

Praise be to God who has poured God's Light and Love into our lives once again.

We Share the Light of Christ

Please light your candles at home.

During the singing of "Silent Night" we will raise and lower candles.

Follow the lead of the pastor.

Extinguish your candle at the end of the carol.

***Carol #186**

"Silent Night! Holy Night!"

Stille Nacht

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.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

"Carol of the Bells"

arr. Hayes

***Those who are able, please stand.**

Leaders in worship:

Liturgist: Rev. Stephanie Ells
Music Director & pianist: Kristen Eby
Special Music Director: Jill Klinebriel
Vocalist: Mark Ward
Musicians: Alex Eby, Hannah Eby, John Eby
Technical Directors: Bryan and Sara Blair

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
Words: German carol/Music: Es Ist Ein Ros
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“Mary, Did You Know?”
Words: Lowry/Music: Greene;
arr. Schrader
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“I Wonder as I Wonder”
Words/Music: Appalachian carol
Words © 1934, Ren. 1962 G. Schirmer
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“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”
Words/Music: French carol; arr. West
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“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Words/Music: French carol, 18th c.
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“Silent Night! Holy Night!”
Words: Mohr/Music: Gruber
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“Away in a Manger”
Words: Anonymous/Music: Murray
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“Carol of the Bells”
Words/Music: traditional carol; arr. Hayes
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“Carol of the Bells”
Music: Ukrainian folk song; arr. Hayes
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“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”
Words: Latin carol/Music: German melody
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