



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2020

9:00 P.M.



ADVENT 2020
LIGHT *of the* WORLD

Dear Friends,

O what a difference one short year can make! Last Christmas, our Sanctuary was packed with worshipers. But tonight we must, like the Wise Men, “come home by another way” as we worship live-streamed through the power of technology. Yet it is truly the Holy Spirit who unites us in love, joy and peace as we worship the Christ-Child, Light of the World.

We may not be able to sing in church together, but in Christ Jesus we are never alone. Tonight, we are the church: sisters and brothers of the One who holds our scattered embers together—and fans them into flame.

Now may the Manger fill your hearth with its heart-light; and the Spirit rekindle your joy. May Christ wrap you warmly in his peace; and God hold you forever in the palm of his hand.

Merry Christmas!

*Pastors Clint & Kristie
and the Staff at First Presbyterian Church*

PRELUDE

String Quartet: Martin Davids, Ann Duggan, *violin*
Clara Takarabe, *viola*; Anna Steinhoff, *cello*

PROLOGUE TO WORSHIP

Howard Thurman (1899–1981)

INTROIT

In the Bleak Midwinter

The Lakeminster Ringers
Gustav Holst, 1906, arr. Barry J. Wenger, 2020

WELCOME

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

The Hamming Family

THE BIDDING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Tom Tropp

CAROL, No. 133, STANZAS 1, 3, 4

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

FIRST LESSON

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Sarah Seccombe

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

CAROL, No. 119

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Tune: MENDELSSOHN

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!"
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.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

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 newborn king."

SECOND LESSON

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Mike Borkowski
Isaiah 11:1–4, 6–9

CAROL, No. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Tune: ST. LOUIS

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.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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!

THIRD LESSON

Prue Beidler

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1–7

ANTHEM

The Choral Scholars

Christmas Day (Choral Fantasy on Old English Carols)

Gustav Holst, 1910

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News! 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!

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Saviour 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;
the 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 oped the heavenly door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Come, ye lofty, come, ye lowly, let your songs of gladness ring;
in a stable lies the Holy, in a manger rests 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 them; rafters naked, cold and bare,
see the shepherds, God has told them that the prince of life lies there.

Come, ye children, blithe and merry, this one child your model make;
Christmas holly, leaf, and berry, all be prized for his dear 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.

The first Nowell, the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the king of Israel

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within 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.

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! 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!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Roberts

OFFERTORY

Susan Noble

Cantique de Noël

Adolphe Adam (1803–1856)

FOURTH LESSON

Jim Cochrane

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8–16

CAROL, No. 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

Tune: 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.

Silent night, holy night!

**Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia: 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.**

Silent night, holy night!

**Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born.**

FIFTH LESSON

Rev. Kristie Finley

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

John 1:1–5, 14

CLOSING PRAYER

Henri J.M. Nouwen (1932–1996)

CAROL, No. 134

Tune: ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Roberts

POSTLUDE

Noel X

Dr. Barry J. Wenger
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

The Choral Scholars

Dr. Thomas Tropp, Director of Music and Arts

Susan Noble, Director of Children's Music

Catherine Larson, Anna Joy Buegel, soprano; Josh Pritchett, countertenor;

Jesse Bettis, tenor; D. Gabriel Knott, bass

