



ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DENTON, TEXAS

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

In person worshippers: please remain seated throughout the service, wear masks, and sing or speak softly to yourself.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE Advent Prelude Callahan
Kimberly Luevano, clarinet and Parker Hinnenkamp, organ

INTROIT (3:00 p.m.) Lo, how a rose e'er blooming arr. T.A. Bergan
Timothy Bergan, baritone and Christopher Cucuruto, bass-baritone

INTROIT (5:00 p.m.) Christmas Trilogy Rudolf
Maria Baylock, cello and Parker Hinnenkamp, organ

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Kendall and Drew Hallford (3:00 p.m.)
Stephen Plunkett and Alison McStravick (5:00 p.m.)

SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 121, v 2)
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.

CALL TO WORSHIP (From St. Peter Chrysologus, 5th Century)
God saw the world falling to ruin because of fear,
and God immediately acted to call it back with love.
God invited it by grace,
preserved it by love,
and embraced it with compassion.
with joy in our hearts, we proclaim that God's love has arrived in Christ.

HYMN 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELIS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Lisa Patterson
God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. In his name, we pray. Amen (Time of silent confession).

SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 121, Vs 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!

DECLARATION OF PARDON
Friends, the Christ child arrives bringing us good news of great joy for all the people.
The Christ-child comes to save us from our sins. Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 132, Vs. 3)

IN DULCI JUBILO

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 the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

C.J. Prater

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM (3:00 p.m.)

Christmas Trilogy

Rudolf

Maria Baylock, cello and Parker Hinnenkamp, organ

ANTHEM (5:00 p.m.)

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Courtney

Erin Alcorn, soprano and Jeffrey Snider, baritone

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 8-16

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

SERMON

God's Journey

Richard B. Culp

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Confession of 1967)

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's own self. Jesus Christ is God with humanity. He is the eternal son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humans and the world. Therefore, the church calls me to be reconciled to God and to one another. Amen.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

As we celebrate the birth of the Savior, let us remember the poor and hungry, the homeless and dispossessed, and let us answer the call of Christ to be his ambassadors of love. Tonight's offering will be split between the Denton Community Food Center, the Pastors' Discretionary Fund and the Presbyterian Disaster Tornado Relief Fund.

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

Adam

Jeffrey Snider, baritone and Parker Hinnenkamp, organ

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

HYMN 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

Please remain seated as ushers assist the congregation in lighting candles. Receive light from the center aisle and pass to the side aisle. The lighted candle should remain upright and the unlighted candle tipped for lighting. To assure the safety of everyone, please extinguish all candles before moving from your seat.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Thanks to Dayvison Costa for playing trumpet this afternoon.

Scripture Readings

Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2: 8-16

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

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 this Christmas text from which it is named.

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

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.

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The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / nē*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

1 *고요한밤 거룩한밤*
어둠에 묻힌밤
주의부모 앉아서
감사기도 드릴때
아기잘도 잔다
아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

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.

ADVENT MUSIC AND FLOWERS

In Memory of

Jim Chaplin
Aileen Lowry-Allison
Marvin & Ouida Henderson
Bob & Jane Kain
Jordan Dodson
Don & Wanda Speigel
Donna Jones
Wanda & VW Martin
Coy Fagan
Willis Mitchell
Jack & Nettie Cornelius
Brad & Margaret Gilbert
David Ramey Gilbert
Ray Janes
Deborah Kilgore
John, Ruth, & Ron Madaras
Marjorie & John Hatmaker

Maxine & Sterling Ramsey
Ralph B. Culp
Helen Culp Schutts
Lewis & Kevin Sims
Hundley Families
Wallis Families
Dan & Jean Wilson
George Heilig
Barbara Smith
Robert and Nancy Brown
Beth Wells
Tolford and Ruth Durham
Don and Jeanne Warner
Patsy Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Robison
Mary Louise Garner

In Honor of

Connor Eberhart
Joan Groom
Suan Fagan
Catherine Mitchell
Children & Grandchildren of A.W. & Rea Oliver
Daughters & Grandchildren of David & Eileen Duffield
Children & Grandchildren of Betty Culp
Robyn & Matt Heilig
Sid and Julie Wells
Jeff Snider
The children and grandchildren of Gayle Strange
Will, Walker, and Ann Patterson
The Stephen Ministers of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

