

# *Christmas Eve Celebration*

## **EMMANUEL – GOD WITH US**

### **A Service of Carols and Candles to the Glory of God**

*December 24, 2024*

*7:00 pm Worship*

Prelude

GPM

*Light of the Stable*

arr. B.E. Taylor

(Frank Cepits, Ryan Gracey, Sarajane Obarsky, Mike Robinson, Dave Petty, Keith Yanda)

Call to Worship (John 1:1-2, 4-5, 14)

The Hnath Family

**Leader:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**People:** **In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**Leader:** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**People:** **The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a Father's son, full of grace and truth.**

\*Carol

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

No. 41

## **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Tonight we relight the four Advent candles. Once again, let us recall the purpose of the four candles. The first candle reminds us of the marvelous HOPE revealed through the Savior's birth. In a time of despair, God shattered the darkness with the HOPE of a new future. The second candle helps us remember that God's perfect LOVE made flesh can fill our hearts, ignite our souls, and change our lives. The third candle reminds us that our JOY abides in God who gently whispers to each human heart, "Come follow me, for I have come that you might have life and have it to the fullest measure." The fourth candle represents the gift of PEACE. This candle symbolized God's perfect PEACE in an imperfect world that is filled with discord.

Carol

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

No. 9 (vs. 1)

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We have spent this season of Advent filled with anticipation and expectation for the birth of Christ. We have anxiously awaited the arrival of Emmanuel – God with us. As we gather tonight, we celebrate the fulfillment of those expectations. Hear the words of this truth found in Scripture:

*For a child has been born to us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders. (Isaiah 9:6) Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those He favors! (Luke 2:14)*

We now light the Christ Candle, as a symbol of Christ's everlasting presence and the light that shines through his birth into the darkness of the world. As we light the Christ Candle, we pray that Christ's light may shine in each of your lives and fill you all with hope, love, joy, and peace.

\*Carol *Joy to the World* No. 40 (vs. 1 & 4)

### A NIGHT OF WONDER

#### The Promise to Israel

Scripture "Isaiah's Prophecy" Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

Prayer

Leader: We know, Lord, that You keep Your promises.

**People: Give us anticipation for Your coming, Lord. Amen.**

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* No. 44 (vs. 1)

#### The Promise to Mary

Scripture "The Birth of Jesus Foretold" Luke 1:26-38b

Prayer

Leader: You, Lord, catch us by surprise.

**People: Surprise us with the future, Lord. Amen.**

Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* No. 31 (vs. 1 & 3)

#### Mary's Song of Praise

Scripture "The Magnificat" Luke 1:46-56

Prayer

Leader: Lord, we thank You and praise You.

**People: Make our lives a celebration of Your great and holy gift. Amen**

Carol *What Child is This* No. 53 (vs 1)

#### The Night of Wonder

Scripture "The Birth of Jesus" Luke 2:1-7

Prayer

Leader: Lord, we do not comprehend the mystery of Jesus' birth.

**People: Implant within our hearts, Lord, the love that sent your Son.  
Amen.**

Solo

*Christmas Hallelujah*  
(Ryan Gracey)

Cohen & Cloverton

### **Angels Over Bethlehem**

Scripture

“Do Not Be Afraid”

Luke 2:8-14

Prayer

Leader: Lord, Your glory fills our world.

**People: Help us to see and celebrate it, Lord. Amen.**

Anthem

*Long, Long Time Ago*

M. Hayes

### **Adoration of the Shepherds**

Scripture

“Let Us Go to Bethlehem”

Luke: 2:15-20

Prayer

Leader: Lord, like those poor shepherds we are not fit to stand in Your presence.

**People: Let us come before You with humility, Lord. Amen.**

Carol

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

No. 23 (vs. 1 & 3)

### **The Word Made Flesh**

Scripture

“The Word”

John 1:1-14

GPM

*Christmas Joy!*

C. Krane

(Frank Cepits, Ryan Gracey, Sarajane Obarsky, Mike Robinson, Dave Petty, Keith Yanda)

Christmas Meditation

Carol

*Away in a Manger*

No. 25 (vs. 3)

## **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GIFT OF JESUS THE CHRIST**

Christmas Offering

\*Prayer of Dedication

**All glory to You, O God, Who has brought light into the darkness and hope into the World. You have made this a most holy night, and ordained it to shine with the brightness of the true light that has come to save mankind. As we embrace the mysteries of Your love for us, may we also come to the fullness of Your joy and Your peace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

*\*First Noel*

**Then entered in those wise men three,  
Fell reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence,  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.**

(vs. 5)

Solo

*Oh, Holy Night*  
(Ryan Gracey)

A. Adams

## **OUR LIGHT WILL SHINE**

Carol

*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!"**

CCLI #1065469

Carol

*Let There Be Peace On Earth*

**Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.**

**With God as our Father, brothers all are we.  
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:**

**To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!**

**Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.**

CCLI #1065469

\*Benediction

As you go from this place, may you encounter the living Christ in unexpected ways, may you be filled with hope, love, joy, and peace, and may the light of Christ shine through you for all to see. Amen.

\*Response:

**Christ, the Savior is born!**

**Christ, the Savior is born!**

\*Postlude

*\*Please stand if you are able*