

First Baptist Church at Worship

Christmastide

December 29, 2019

Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Singing of Carols

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: 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!*

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

*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.*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 men on earth!*

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

Call to Worship

Alice Tremaine

*Hope has come –
awakening us to new possibilities.*

*Peace has come –
inviting us to be agents of reconciliation.*

*Joy has come –
turning our hearts from fear to wonder.*

*Love has come –
transforming our lives, transforming the world.*

*We have come –
to worship the newborn King!*

+Hymn 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

stanzas 1, 2, and 4

+Prayer of the Day

Paul Sims

Holy God, You entered our world and made a home among the desperate and despairing. Give us eyes to see You in the faces of those whose vulnerability frightens us, and give us the will to care for our neighbors in need.

Illumine the shadows of our lives with Your light and open our hearts to receive Your grace, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World. Amen.

+Response

Jesus, the Light of the World

setting by André Thomas

Walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy shine bright,

Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je - sus, the Light of the world.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, **Jesus, the Light of the world:***

*“Glory to the newborn King.” **Jesus, the Light of the world. REFRAIN***

*Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace, **Jesus, the Light of the world:***

*Hail, the Sun of righteousness, **Jesus, the Light of the world. REFRAIN***

- Traditional gospel song

The Word

Children's Sermon

Alice Tremaine

+Psalm 148

MENDELSSOHN

*Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing, "God is our eternal King."
Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem manifold;
Join with children's songs of praise, worship God through length of days;
Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."
Praise God, all you hosts above, ever shining forth in love;
Sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!
From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, holy, holy One, Glory be to God alone!"
Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."*

- Stopford Brooke

A Reading from the Epistles: Hebrews 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the One who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

**"I will proclaim Your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise You."**

And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

A Reading from the Gospels: Matthew 2:13-23

Paul Sims

The Gospel of our Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

"Home for Christmas"

Alice Tremaine

Responding

+Hymn 114

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

If you wish to present yourself for membership today, or if you have another decision to share, please come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and a minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

+Offertory Prayer

Alice Tremaine

All loose change received in December will benefit our church's benevolence ministries

Organ Offertory

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

setting by David Lasky

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.*

- traditional Polish carol

+Doxology for Christmas

THE FIRST NOWELL

*To God, all glorious heav'nly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thanks and praise.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

- Charles Coffin

Sending

+The Peace

Paul Sims

*The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.*

+Hymn 102

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

stanzas 1, 2, and 4

+Commission and Blessing

Paul Sims & Alice Tremaine

Organ Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

setting by Alice Jordan

+all who are able may stand

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Gayle Majors, Organist

Ann Hacker, Pianist