

Worship for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022
Six O'clock in the Evening

Prelude

Rejoice and Be Merry
Samuel Garr, clarinet
Carolyn Garr, accompanist

setting by Robert Powell

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Alex Lockridge

Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life.

The Promise is fulfilled!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Our candles illuminate our story.

Dawn invades midnight.

The Light of the World has come.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

And this light is a light for all –

*igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating love,
lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh
within us and among us now and always.*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

+Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,

Lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb;

Son of the Father, begotten, not created.

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,

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

- Latin hymn; attr. John Francis Wade

+Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Paul Sims

+Act of Praise

MENDELSSOHN

***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!"***

- Charles Wesley

Homily

Alex Lockridge

Carol

O Holy Night

by Adolphe Adam

Carolyn Garr, soloist
Samuel Garr, accompanist

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall be break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, his pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.*

- John Dwight

The First Lesson

John 1:1-5, 14

Alex Lockridge

+Carol

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

***The first Nowell the angel 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.
For all to see there was a star shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.
Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.***

- traditional English carol

The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

Paul Sims

Carol

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.
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 cradle till 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.*

- anonymous; John Thomas McFarland, stanza 3

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-14

Jeremiah Banks

Carol

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, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lonely plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds the heavenly angels sing.
All ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are ending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road, and 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.*

- Edmund H. Sears

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

Alex Lockridge

+Carol

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.
Glory streams from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."
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.*

- Joseph Mohr

+Benediction

Jeremiah Banks, Alex Lockridge, & Paul Sims

*Go now, glorifying and praising God for all you have heard and seen.
Renounce ungodly living and unworthy desires, and take control of your lives with godliness and honor.
And may the God of grace increase your joy,
may Christ Jesus be born as Savior within you,
and may the Spirit, the Wonderful Counselor, make the good news known to you and through you. **Amen.***

+those who are able may stand

Kayden Lockridge, acolyte

Offering plates will be at exits to receive an offering that will be used throughout the coming year to help local families with emergency needs. Please give generously.

*The Advent Wreath is placed in loving memory of
Felix and Mattie Pace
and
Leonard and Marie Leake
by
Kevin and Sherry Pace
Daniel, Lindsay, Jackson, Harrison, and Emerson Lowe*