

Worship for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023
Six O'clock in the Evening

Organ Voluntaries	<i>God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen</i>	setting by D. Lasky
	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	setting by R. & E. Smith
	<i>Ding Dong! Merrily on High</i>	setting by R. Bruner
	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	setting by D. Lasky

Lighting of the Christ Candle	Alex Lockridge
Emerson, Harrison, and Jackson Lowe, acolytes	

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 103	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	ADESTE FIDELES
stanzas 1, 2, and 3		

+Prayer of Praise and Adoration	Jeremiah Banks
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+Act of Praise	MENDELSSOHN
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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, 18th century

The Celebration of Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(the Prayer of Thanksgiving continues)

Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

sung: ***Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

... with thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Amen.

Breaking the Bread; Blessing the Cup

The Communion of the People

please come forward by way of a center aisle, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, then partake of the bread and wine; please return to your pew by way of a window aisle and be seated.

Prayer after Communion

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! 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.***

- Joseph Mohr, 19th century

+Benediction

Jeremiah Banks and Alex Lockridge

Organ Postlude

Paeon on Antioch

setting by D. Lasky

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+those who are able may stand

Carson Calico, flute
Jefferson Calico, guitar
Samuel Garr, accompanist

Ushers 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.