

Worshipping God  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Christmas Eve

Centering Words

*God of light and love, shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead.  
Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light. May our lives reflect your glorious love,  
that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives. Amen.*

Chiming of the Hour

Organ Prelude

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Welcome

Spoken Word

Dan Koger

Instrumental Introit

*Once in Royal David's City  
Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Stephanie Fisher, flute

Opening Prayer

Hymn, 187 (Verses 1 & 3)

*O Holy Night*

CANTIQUE DE NOEL

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our 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!  
O night divine! O night, O night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
and in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raising, let all within us praise his holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

Candle Lighting - the Christ Candle

Instrumental Response

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*

arr. Mark Hayes

Service of Lessons and Carols

**Carols**

*(Please join in reading along with the bold print)*

Litany 1

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world!...You are an unchangeable, faithful God. Because of this,

**We come today in gratitude**

knowing...Your blessings search us out and cover us.

**We come today in humility**

Accepting you as our eternal gift, given by God the Father.

**We come rejoicing**

as Your adopted children!...Our heavenly adoption brings us kingdom riches and life.

*(continued on next page)*

**We come in faith**

You are the God who comes and stays and delivers. Because of this,

**You are our Hope!**

Our Hope for things to come,

**Our Hope for unresolved situations today.**

You are our HOPE we pray in Your name,

**In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

Carol

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground.  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Litany 2

*Away in a Manger*

Lord, it is beyond...we must also ask ourselves where we have not made room for you. So today, Lord,

**We invite You into our homes**

We invite you to see us as we are, with no pretense to show; to see the best and the worst of us.

**We create room for You in our workplaces**

Where tensions run high, and people can be difficult.

**We invite you into our conflicts**

And, for those who struggle during the Christmas season,

**We invite You into our struggle**

May every heart prepare room for you in this season and throughout the year.

**Amen.**

Carol

*Away in a Manger*  
(Kara Miller, soloist verse 1)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wake,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle 'til 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.

Litany 3

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

To have "A request for the Honor of Your Presence" from the King of the Nations, How can we refuse?!

**And so we come**

In answer to your bidding.

**We come**

with uplifted hearts and outstretched arms.

**We come**

with joyful songs...they sing praise to your name.

**Come and see the works of God; how awesome are his deeds toward mankind!**

Carol

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n 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.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.  
Jesus to thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore him.  
O come, let us adore him.  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

He breaks the power of fear and sin, and He frees us, giving us His peace.

**Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

These are tidings of comfort! These are tidings of joy!

***God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen***

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright.  
This day is born a Savior of Virgin pure and bright  
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace.  
This holy tide of Christmas, all others doth deface.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lord, remind us that throughout history, You have chosen the underdog, the unassuming to show your greatest power.

**Remind us that you can be found in the most unlikely of places.**

Remind us that your miracles and blessings cannot be summoned by wealth, power, or presentation.

**In times when we lack confidence in our calling,**

remind us that you chose Mary, an unwed teen, to raise the Savior of the world.

**In times when our current situation seems to disqualify us from your blessings,**

Remind us of Bethlehem, the tiny city with heavenly fame.

**In times when we feel "less-than,"**

That You would use us to accomplish the divine is an honor almost more than we can comprehend, but we are grateful!

**Let us be Your hands and feet, bringing miracles of hope and deliverance to people in darkness. Amen.**

Carol

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

*(Stephanie Horton, Soloist, verse 1)*

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above.  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

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.

Holy Communion

*Sleeping Adonai*

Kyle Cook, soloist

A Reading from Luke 2:8-18

Carol

***The First Noel***

The first Noel, 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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel.  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw 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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel.  
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord  
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with his blood humankind has brought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel.  
Born is the King of Israel.

Litany 6

Carol

*Silent Night (Candle Lighting)*

***Silent 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.

*(continued on next page)*

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glory streams from heaven afar.  
Heav'nly 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.

Litany 7

*Joy to the World (Reprise)*

When we see Christmas lights blinking on the trees and on the houses, we will rejoice

**For you are the Light!**

When we feast on our Christmas meal and all the confectionaries, we will give thanks

**For You are the Bread of Life.**

As we leave with these carols in our hearts and on our lips,

**We will sing with the angels,**

And so, we end the same way we began: Joy to the world! Our Lord has come!

**We receive you as our King!**

Carol

*Joy to the World (Reprise)*

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Postlude

*Fantasia on "In Dulci Jubilo"*

J. S. Bach