

The Worship of God

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM
24 December 2018

Gather

Meditation of Preparation

At one time, most of my friends could hear the bell. But as years passed, it fell silent for all of them. Even Sarah found one Christmas that she could no longer hear its sweet sound. Though I've grown old, the bell still rings for me, as it does for all who truly believe.

Chris Van Allsburg, *The Polar Express*

For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of the journey, but only the beginning-not home, but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last.

Fredrick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

Tolling the Hour

Welcome & Passing the Peace

Lin Story-Bunce

Grace

Prelude

In The Bleak Midwinter
Rachel Kirkman, Flute

by: Gustav Holst
arr: Mychal Gendron

Call to Worship

We told her she couldn't go; she was too young to stay up that late.

She told us that baby Jesus would be there and he was younger than she.

We told him he couldn't go; he was too old to brave the cold night air.

He told us he'd rather greet heaven from the Christmas Eve service than be found slumped by the TV.

So we bundled them up against the extreme cold, against their own defenselessness, against our better judgement

And they went out with joy.

My prayer is that those of us who think that we are in charge of the world and the church will remember that the stable was filled with such as these:

Those who could not be kept from rejoicing!

Gospel Reading

Luke 1.26-38, *The Message*
Blair Ramsey

Special Music

Still, Still, Still.
Marjorie Bagley, Violin

Austrian Carol
arr: Chip Davis

Bringing in Baby Jesus

Juliette McIvor

Bringing in Christ Candle

Loukas Bunce

Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: What brings you here today?

People: Hope that fosters faith, Peace that passes understanding, Joy deeper than happiness, Love that brings us to God.

Leader: How can this be?

People: It is of God.

ALL: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace, there will be no end.

Leader: We light the Christ candle to symbolize the majesty and glory of Jesus

People: who was born as we all are born, but who died as no other, becoming savior for all.

Carol BH#93

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

Give

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.1-7, *The Message*
Matt Cravey

Carol GtG#126

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child WONDERSFUL CHILD

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child'. It is written in G major and 12/8 time. The score consists of ten staves, each with a treble and bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Je-sus, Je-sus, O what a won-der-ful child. Je-sus, Je-sus, so ho-ly, meek and mild; new life, new hope the child will bring. Lis-ten to the an-gels sing: "Glo-ry, glo-ry, glo-ry!" Let the heav-ens ring.'

Offertory Prayer

Ian Beatty

Offertory

Our Christmas Eve offering will go to Charity: Water. Charity: Water is a non-profit organization bringing clean and safe drinking water to people in developing nations. College Park has it's own campaign, *Fear Nothing*, with a goal of \$1000. 100% of donations go to people needing clean water.

Offertory Music

The Holly and the Ivy\Deck the Halls
Sarah Ramsey, Piano

arr: Jay Rouse

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-20, *The Message*
Blair Ramsey

Meditation

Courage to Love

Lin Story-Bunce

Moment of Silence

There were only a few shepherds at the first Bethlehem. The ox and the ass understood more of the first Christmas than the high priests in Jerusalem. And it is the same today.

Thomas Merton

Solo

Wonder as I Wander
Tom Hardin

John Jacob Niles

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Michael Usey

This is the Lord's table, all who follow Jesus as Lord are invited to partake of it. At College Park, parents decide when children are ready to take communion.

Wine is in the **ceramic** chalices. **Grape juice** is in the **glass** chalices. Gluten-free bread is available at the front table.

* Communion

Please come forward to receive communion by intinction. Communion servers are members of the College Park staff & their families.

* Communion Music

O Holy Night
Haley Turner

Music by: Adolphe Adam
words: John Sullivan Dwight

Merry Christmas to You
Christian and Chrissy McIvor

Christian McIvor

* Hebrew Bible Reading

Isaiah 9.2-7, *The Message*
Matt Cravey

* Candle Lighting

* Carol #91 *Silent 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, darkness flies, all is light;
shepherds hear the angels sing,
Alleluia! Hail the King!
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 your birth, Jesus, Lord at your 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.

* Carol #87 *Joy to The World* ANTIOCH

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 men 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, and wonders of his love.

Go

Postlude *Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light* arr: Robert W. Thygeron

Depart in Peace

We must look to Mary's example to know how to deal with the glorious impossibilities of God,

Calvin Miller, *The Christ of Christmas: Readings for Advent*

'Twas the Sunday after christmas

**Join us December 30 for a
combined service of worship
and celebration. Come dressed
casually in jeans, your
favorite Carhart hoody, new
Falcons jersey, REI pullover,
or new ski sweater.**

**Coffee and donuts will be
served in the chapel at
9:00am, followed by worship
at 10:00 am.**

**There will be no Tessera
Service. Sunday school classes
will not meet**

Music reprinted under One License No. 701698. All rights reserved.

- * Please stand as you are able.
- ❖ Late worshipers will be seated.

Christmas Eve Service
24 December 2018