



December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

Sinfonia
from *Christmas Oratorio*

J.S. Bach
String Quartet

GREETING

Darren Cushman Wood

CHORAL INTROIT

Run, Ye Shepherds, to the Light

M. Haydn

Run, ye shepherds, to the light! For joyous news I carry.
Joy fills all the starry night, come quickly, do not tarry!
In lowly manger bare come see the infant there, a child, the King of Glory!
With all your might, rush toward the light, the star of ancient story.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us dance with delight in the Lord
and let our hearts be filled with rejoicing,
People: for eternal salvation has appeared on the earth! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN #234

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;***

***Refrain: 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; [Refrain]***

***Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; [Refrain]***

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God
You have increased our joy
by sending us the Wonderful Counselor,
the Prince of Peace.
Born of Mary,
proclaimed to the shepherds
and acknowledged to the ends of the earth,
your Son destroys our darkness and sets us free.

**People: Glory to you, O God,
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
in the radiance of your Spirit,
this night and forever more. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Amber Denney

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The prophet announces the birth of a ruler to a people in darkness.

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

arr. H. Hopson

Comfort, comfort, O my people, tell of peace, now says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak unto Jerusalem; of the peace that waits for them;
Tell that all the sins I cover; and that warfare now is over.

Hark, the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,
bidding us to make repentance since the kingdom is now here.
O that warning cry obey: Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him; let the hills bow down to greet him.

O make straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
See the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
all the world shall see the token, God's own word is never broken.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 96

Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord!
Let the whole earth sing to the Lord!

**People: Sing to the Lord; praise God's name.
Each day proclaim the good news that God saves us.**

Leader: Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things the Lord does.

**People: Great is the Lord who is most worthy of praise!
The Lord is to be feared above all gods.
The gods of other nations are mere idols,
but the Lord made the heavens!**

Leader: Honor and majesty surround our God;
strength and beauty fill the sanctuary.

**People: O nations of the world, recognize the Lord;
recognize that the Lord is glorious and strong.**

Leader: Give to the Lord the glory who is worthy of praise!
Bring your offering and come into God's courts.

**People: Worship the Lord in all holy splendor.
Let all the earth tremble before God.**

Leader: Tell all the nations, "The Lord reigns!"
The world stands firm and cannot be shaken.
God will judge all peoples fairly.

**People: Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!
Let the sea and everything in it shout God's praise!**

Leader: Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy!
Let the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord who is coming!

**People: The Lord is coming to judge the earth,
who will judge the world with justice,
and the nations with truth.**

CAROL #224

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

***Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!***

***Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Call you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!***

PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

Amber Denney

SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

The epistle proclaims the coming of the grace of Jesus Christ.

CAROL #249

There's a Song in the Air

***There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!***

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

*Your contribution will help to support North Church's Bread & Bowl and Farmer's Market food ministries.
Text "give" to 317-676-2061 or go to northchurchindy.com and select "give online".
Make checks payable to North UMC and write "Christmas" in the memo line. Mail to: North UMC, 3808 N.
Meridian, Indianapolis 46208*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CAROL #249

There's a Song in the Air

***In the light of that star lie the ages imperaled;
and that song from afar has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!***

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Kathleen Custer

The birth of the Christ Child.

ANTHEM

Softly Rest, O Heavenly Child

M. Haydn

Sleep, softly rest, O heav'nly child, my heart Thy dwelling ever where
Thy love and mercy mild shall reign with Thee forever. Sleep.
See Him asleep! your vigil keep all about His lowly manger.
This Child of peace, sent to release the world from all sin's danger,
on knees we bend, all sorrows end, God's love to us descended. Sleep.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

Kathleen Custer

The angels announce the birth of the Christ Child.

ANTHEM

Glory to God in the Highest Heaven

P. Choplin
Ron Berry, soloist

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, glory to God, now a child is born.
Glory to God in the highest heaven, glory to God, He is Christ the Lord.
Don't be afraid, for I come to you, coming to bring you amazing news.
In Bethlehem, now a Child is born, a Savior, He is Christ the Lord. Refrain
Shepherds, now to the manger go. Find the Child there in swaddling clothes.
When you see Him, you'll lift your voice and praise the Lord with joyful noise! Refrain*

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

Kathleen Custer

The shepherds go to see the Christ Child.

ANTHEM

No Eye Had Seen/All is Well

A. Grant/M.W. Smith/arr. D. Hamilton
Amy Cuomo; *Nathanael Hein*, soloists

No eye had seen, no ear had heard, 'til hosts on high proclaimed the birth
and heaven brought down it's only Child, the Son of God the world reconciled.
*Quietly with no one watching, from the womb of perfect peace,
wellspring of our joy delivered into earthly destiny.
And song broke forth, angelic strain. And none could help but sing the name: Emmanuel.*
All is well, all is well. Heav'n and earth rejoice. For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light.
Sing alle, sing Alleluia.
All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing. Born is now, Emmanuel, born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing Alleluia. All is well.

SERMON

A Homily for Nora

Darren Cushman Wood

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;
glories stream 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!***

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Leader: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**People: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory.

People: From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

CAROL #246

Joy to the World

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.***

***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.***

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

arr. K. Langlois

*The flowers on the altar today are given for the glory
of God and in thanksgiving for all those who have made this service possible this year.*

Christmas Eve worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*

Mark Gilgallon, *Director of Music*

John Hague, Dick Tiller-Luchtman & Jeff Linnan, *Audio Visual*

Heather Hinton, *Organist*

Chancel Quartet:

Kate Roberts, soprano; Amy Cuomo, alto; Nathanael Hein, tenor; Ron Berry, bass

String Quartet:

Davis Brooks, violin; Chin Mi Kim, violin; Lisa Brooks, viola; Kurt Fowler, cello