



Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, 10:30 p.m.
Festival of Lessons and Carols

Prelude

ANTHEM

Long-Expected Dawn

K. Marroli
Voices in Accord

When our hearts are troubled and in need of light,
and the darkness deepens 'midst the thickening night,
we await your coming as our souls press on toward a long-expected dawn.
When our hearts are broken and in need of balm, you send your promise,
your hope and calm. We await your presence as we travel on toward a long-expected dawn.
O Light of Hope! Break forth! Appear and shatter all the darkness here!
O let your advent herald clear an end to sorrow and to fear!
You come from heaven to make straight the way, birthing hope from sorrow, changing night to day.
Lord, walk among us as we journey on toward a long-expected dawn.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

***How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in!***

ANTHEM

God Walked in Eden's Garden Fair

H. Hopson

God walked in Eden's garden fair, such beauty there none could compare.
It soon became a place of shame; there Adam's sin disowned God's name.
Kyrie eleison. (Lord, have mercy.)
A world of peace was swept away when Adam chose to disobey.
We too are marked by Adam's fall; we still refuse to hear God's call.
Christe eleison. (Christ, have mercy.)
The tale of Adam is our own. Like him we see God's love made known;
yet we rebel and go our way. The bitter cost we then must pay.
Kyrie eleison. (Lord, have mercy.)

CAROL

What Child is This

***What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthem sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the king, whom shepherds guard and angel sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.***

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners hear the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ, the king, whom shepherds guard and angel sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

ANTHEM

What Sweeter Music

J. Rutter

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
and give the honor to this day that sees December turned to May.
Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow
newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and luster, public mirth, to heaven and the underearth.
We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his showers, turns the patient ground
to flowers. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him.
The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly,
and this ivy wreath, to do him honor; who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling.
What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King?

CAROL

Angels from the Realms of Glory

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant's light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.**

ANTHEM

Angels We Have Heard on High

M. Culloton
Voices in Accord

Gloria! Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria!
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! In dulci júbilo (In sweet rejoicing) let us our homage show.
Angels we have heard on high. Gloria!

ORGAN SOLO

On Christmas Night

arr. R. Milford
Heather Hinton

WELCOME

Brandon Wallace

*PASSING THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Darren Cushman Wood

Leader: Light shone from above

People: to us the word of faith,

Leader: and announced to us the song of the angels.

People: Glory in the highest to God our Savior. Hallelujah.

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL #240

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

***Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"***

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

***Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]***

***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. [Refrain]***

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (pew card)

Hope is a Star

J. Raney

Leader: Tonight: we mark the end of the anticipation and the beginning of the greatest story.

People: Hallelujah, Christ is born!

Leader: Our hopes have become reality. We walk into the light.

People: Hallelujah, Christ is born!

Leader: Let peace reign throughout the world. Let our hearts find calm.

People: Hallelujah, Christ is born!

Leader: May we feel the joy of his coming long after this season ends.

People: Hallelujah, Christ is born!

Leader: Love has come down from heaven and is all around us.

People: Hallelujah, Christ is born!

PRAYER

**Eternal God,
this night shines with the light of your Son Jesus Christ,
who dispels the darkness of this hurting world.
Grant that we may rejoice in the beauty
and walk in the truth of his glorious light,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Amber Denney

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

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

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; speak of peace that waits for them;
tell that all their sins I cover; tell 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 now is here.
O that warning cry obey; now prepare for God away;
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 this token, God's own word is never broken.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Betsy Jalloh

The angel announces to Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son.

*CAROL #218

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

v. 1, 3-4

***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.***

***And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending 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 seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.***

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:39-45

Julie Berry

Mary visits Elizabeth.

ANTHEM

Ave Maria

F. Biebl

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae, et concepti de Spiritu sancto.

The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary, and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Ave Maria, gratia plena Dominus tecum,

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;

Benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini, fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

Mary said: "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy Word."

Ave Maria, gratia plena Dominus tecum,

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;

Benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Sancta Maria, mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,

Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Amber Denney

The birth of the Christ Child.

ANTHEM

Murmurs in the Stable

C. Courtney

Murmurs in the stable in the silence of the night, murmurs first of pain, then of joy.
Murmurs in the stable in the silence of the night, quiet cries from Mary's baby boy.
Sweet, holy Child, murmuring mysteries divine, Son of God, son of man.
The holy Word in a helpless baby's cry, born to be the spotless Lamb.
Murmurs in the stable from the tiny infant King, proclaiming the Word divine.
Give me grace to listen, teach my silent heart to sing that I am Yours, You are mine.
Sweet, holy Child, murmuring mysteries divine, Son of God, son of man.
The holy Word in a helpless baby's cry, born to be the spotless Lamb.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Darren Cushman Wood

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Mid-Winter

B. Chilcott

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain:
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but only his mother in her maiden bliss worshipped the beloved with a kiss.
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can, I give him - give my heart.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Amber Denney

The shepherds and angels celebrate the good news of the Christ Child.

ANTHEM

While Shepherds Watched Their Flock by Night

C. Courtney

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.
"Fear not" said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind. To you in David's
town this day is born, of David's line, the Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign: "The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human
view displayed, all meanly wrapt in swathing bands and in a manger laid.
All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace: Good will henceforth
from heaven to earth begin and never cease."

SERMON

Good Night, Good News

Darren Cushman Wood

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

SILENT NIGHT

*(Please remain seated for Silent Night. The Choir will sing the first verse in German.
The congregation and choir will then sing in English.)*

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht. Alles schläft; einsam wacht.
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

***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!***

*PROCLAMATION OF THE LIGHT

Darren Cushman Wood

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.

*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.***

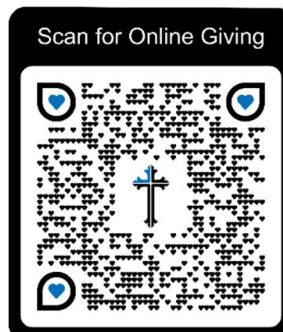
***He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.***

*THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

arr. K. Langlois
Heather Hinton



Select "Christmas Offering" in the fund drop down menu.

Upcoming Event:

Last Sunday of the Year, December 29, 11:00am
one combined worship service

Scan to sign up for our newsletter:



Tonight's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood

Senior Pastor

Brandon Wallace

Minister of Christian Education

John Hague & Allen McCormack

Audio Visual

Mark Gilgallon

Director of Music

Heather Hinton

Organist