

Christmas

Eve Service

ALL IS CALM
All is Bright



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE

December 24, 2020

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

THE PRELUDE “Christmas Medley” Jan Mauck, Pianist

THE BIDDING PRAYER The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

*OPENING #183 “Once in Royal David’s City” (Stz. 1, 2, 4) *IRBY*

*CALL TO WORSHIP *The Glory of God’s Reign*

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.

Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.

For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil; God guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

We have come to worship the Lord!

Psalm 97:1, 5-6, 8-12 The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible Copyright © 1989 the Div. of Christian Ed. of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S. of America.

*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*A CAROL #222 “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” (Stz 1, 4)

*A CAROL #182 “O Come All Ye Faithful” (Stz. 1) *ADESTE FIDELES*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

THE RIGHTEOUS REIGN OF THE COMING KING: But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

ISAIAH 9:1-7 (NRSV)

A CAROL #179

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

THE BIRTH OF JESUS: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)

A CAROL #180

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Stz. 1) *ST. LOUIS*

A CAROL #203**“Away in a Manger”***Murray*

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Luke 2:8-14 (NRSV)

A CAROL #185 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (Stz 1) MENDELSSOHN

A CAROL #188 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (Stz. 1, 3) GLORIA

A CAROL #189 “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (Stz. 1, 2) R. SQUARE

THE SHEPHERDS HURRY TO BETHLEHEM: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So, the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them.

Luke 2:15-20 (NRSV)

A CAROL #229**“The First Noel” (Stz. 1)***LE PREMIER NOËL*

THE BIRTH RETOLD: Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER – The Table of the Lord Jesus Christ is *open* to all persons, regardless of age, creed, race, or church membership. All persons who profess faith in Jesus are invited to partake in this memorial meal commemorating the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Messiah. In solidarity with our brothers and sisters, we only serve nonalcoholic grape juice. Please hold each element until everyone is served, then we will feast together.

†**Servers Prepare for the Table of the Lord**

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER – OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

THE ORDINANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Body of Christ – The Body of Christ, The Bread of Heaven

The Blood of Christ – The Blood of Christ, The Cup of Salvation

A CAROL #184 “What Child Is This?” (Stz. 1, 2, 3) *GREENSLEEVES*

A CAROL #221 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” *W ZLOBIE LEZY*

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING – “Home for the Holidays” – We will receive a special Christmas Offering for family in the neighborhood and children at Meadows Elementary School. Please give generously to help our neighbors. You can give online or use an envelope available in the pews.

RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH

†**THE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY** – Ushers have distributed individual candles and wax protectors to worshipers before the service. ***Please be careful as the flame and wax are hot!*** The Minister will light the processional candles from the Christ Candle and pass the flame to the Ushers. An Usher will carry the flame to each aisle. Please keep lighted candles upright! Only tip the unlighted candles to transfer the flames person-to-person. We will sing after everyone has a lit candle.

*A CAROL #186

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

*UNISON CLOSING PRAYER - God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on Jesus until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever.

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

*POSTLUDE Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

*NOTA BENE – Please place extinguished candles and wax protectors in the metal cans beside the Sanctuary doors after the worship service. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID - PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE: RED PHASE – BUILDING CLOSED TO PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE – To mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID 19), the Church leaders have enacted *Phase Red Protocols* on the advice of our Executive Minister, the Governor of the State of Kansas, and Shawnee County Health Officer. Effective immediately until further notice:

BUILDING CLOSED to the public. **MASKS REQUIRED** - All persons (age 6 and older) are required to **WEAR A MASK IN PUBLIC including employees of the church**, with certain exemptions apply including all children *age 5 and under*, when social distancing (keeping six feet of distance between yourself and others outside your household, except for occasional or incidental moments of closer proximity) is not possible. (see SNCO Emergency Order #2020-68 and the Governors Executive Order #20-68 Mandatory Mask Protocol). **MASS GATHERING LIMIT** is 10 persons (including weddings) where social distancing cannot be maintained. **HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALS and PARENTS AND SMALL CHILDREN** should take more intensive precautions including staying-safe-at-home. High-risk individuals include those with underlying medical conditions, including chronic lung disease, asthma, heart conditions, severe obesity, chronic kidney disease, liver disease, or who are otherwise immunocompromised.



ANNUAL MEETING – The Congregation will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31, at noon in the Fellowship Hall with a potluck luncheon before the meeting. See Pat Carpenter, Church Moderator, for agenda items and details.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY – The Church Office will be **CLOSED** on Thursday and Friday, December 24-25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. The Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 31 and January 1 in observance of the New Year holiday. Call the Pastor at home if you have an emergency.

DE-DECORATING with HAM & BEANS – Help de-decorate the church and Sanctuary after the Epiphany worship service on Sunday, January 10. Plan to stay (if COVID permits) or take a To-Go Lunch of Ham and Beans with cornbread and honey. A free-will offering will be received for the Youth Group.

EMERGENCY - If you have an emergency or need medical assistance, please notify an usher. An Usher will contact 911 Emergency Services and tell any doctors, nurses or medical staff in the Congregation. If an emergency occurs, please keep calm and quiet. The service will continue after the crisis is under control by professionals.

END-OF-THE-YEAR GIFT – Please consider giving an End-of-the-Year gift online, by mail, or in person. West Side Baptist Church is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and all donations are tax-deductible as provided by law. All donations must be received or postmarked on or before December 31 to be included in your 2020 Statement of Giving.



POINSETTIAS – Thank you to the individuals and families who purchased and shared a poinsettia that graced the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season. Families are encouraged to take their poinsettias home after tonight's service. Donors may leave their poinsettias in the Sanctuary over the next few weeks for decorations.

THANK YOU – God bless you and thank you for the many cards, gifts, and prayers for a splendid holiday and New Year. We are grate for the Lord called us to serve among you.
~ Rexanne, Ivan, Jessa, Macy, David, and Nathan