



Christmas Eve 2021

Friday, December 24, 10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

SILENT NIGHT

“Silent Night” is undoubtedly the most iconic carol for Christmas Eve, but I’m not sure how silent the night actually was for Mary and Joseph. I know another of our favorite carols says “but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes,” but somehow I doubt it. And apparently those shepherds were a noisy bunch too, telling everyone they saw what they had heard and praising God for all they had seen. And when is the last time you heard a quiet angelic choir? Mary and Joseph might have needed a little silence to try and catch a few minutes sleep in their exhaustion from a long journey, labor, and delivery, but for us, it is not a night to be silent. Tonight is the night to lift up our voices “with the angels let us sing, hallelujah to our King, Christ the Savior is born,” and to join the shepherds in their joyous praising and glorifying God for the good news of great joy they had received and the experience of meeting Christ Jesus.

For all the excitement and joyous “noise” however, most of us do long for and need some silent moments to “ponder” what all this means to us. In the hustle and bustle of the season, the rushing around to finish all the cooking, shopping, assembling, and wrapping, the getting to all the places we have to be, what may be lost to us is a moment to reflect on how this night changes our lives. Because of this night we believe in Emmanuel, “God is with us” and we are not alone; we believe we have seen the Father full of grace and truth; we believe our sins are forgiven because he came to be our Savior and gave His life for the salvation of the world; we believe God loves us more than we can imagine. Today we come to praise and celebrate in worship and song, but we also come to gather in a quiet moment at the table remembering what this night means to us all, peace on earth and goodwill to all people, Christ the Savior is born.

If we do find a moment to be silent and reflect, it would also be good for us to remember that for some people this season is too silent. There are those who miss the voices of loved ones lost, and others who find themselves alone. It may be that we know someone who needs to hear our voice and share our presence to break their silence.

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VOLUNTARIES

Silent Night arr. Diane Bish
Fantasia on O Come, All Ye Faithful David Blackwell

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Ben Martin

Thank you for joining us. Please register your attendance in the booklets found in the pew, and remember to silence your cell phones and refrain from flash photography during the Service. If needed, hearing devices and large print hymnals are available in the Narthex. The nursery for infants to 3 years old is located on the first floor.

* **GREETING** Ben Martin

Pastor: Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

All: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

* **HYMN** No. 246 Joy to the World ANTIOCH
Stanzas 1, 2, & 4

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Luke 2:1-20

Nancy Barnwell,
Ashley and Dana Barnwell, and Janice Wintzer (10:30)
Kyle, Christa, and Silas Kerby,
Edd and Elane Finley (5:30)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.”

PASTORAL PRAYER Jennifer Thompson (10:30)
Nelle Bordeaux (5:30)

* **HYMN** No. 219 What Child Is This GREENSLEEVES

SERMON “Rethink Christmas Part 4: Rethink God” Ben Martin

INVITATION AND CONFESSION

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved You
with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done Your will,
we have broken Your law,
we have rebelled against Your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Congregation: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God! Amen!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jennifer Thompson (10:30)

Nelle Bordeaux (5:30)

ANTHEM

Hannah Dasher, soloist (10:30)

One King Anna Owens and Whitney Owens, soloists (5:30)

* **PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

* **HYMN OF RESPONSE**

DIX

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to thee, our heavenly
King.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to You,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth...

And so, with Your people on earth,
and all the company of heaven
we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor:

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in
Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's
offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor:

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...

Through Your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in Your holy church, all honor and
glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory; For ever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

Gluten free bread is available. Please indicate your preference by
raising your hand.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

We will take communion at the rail. If you prefer taking communion in your pew, prefilled communion cups are available. Please raise your hand and an usher or staff member will bring one to you. Following the service, please place your cup in the trash receptacle located in the Narthex.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

O Holy Night Whitney Owens, soloist (5:30)

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

All: Eternal God, we give You thanks for this holy mystery
in which You have given Yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

* **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

* **HYMN No. 239 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, 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, 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.

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.

* **BENEDICTION** Ben Martin

Following the Service, please place your candle in the boxes located in the Narthex, and take your bulletins, masks, and all belongings with you.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Joy to the World
arr. Clay Christiansen

* *Please stand as you are able.*

Communion and Christmas Mission Offering

Today's Communion Offering is designated for our Rethink Christmas Mission offering which will be equally divided between local and overseas missions. The local portion will be focused on disaster relief for Kentucky, Tennessee, and other states devastated by the tornadoes. If you would like to contribute, please leave your offering in the chancel rail when you come to be served or place your donation in the marked boxes located in the sanctuary.

Staff

Rev. Ben Martin Senior Pastor
Rev. Nelle Bordeaux..... Outreach & New Members
Rev. Jennifer Thompson..... Congregational Life
Rev. James P. Owens Director of Student Ministries
Dr. Monica Dekle..... Director of Music and Organist
Charli Weeks..... Director of Children's Ministry

Acolytes

(10:30) Charlie Kraeuter and Lincoln Kraeuter
(5:30) Hannah Green

Communion Stewards

(10:30) Joyce & Richard Zehl
(5:30) Rebecca Lewis

Greeters

(10:30) James Cubbedge
(5:30) TBD

Ushers

(10:30) Jeff Miller, Dustin Hamilton, Jim Pannell,
Jon Pannell, Aaron Pederson, Johnny Phelps, Vin Thomas,
Mark Wilcox
(5:30) Brian West, Chris Donegan, Ken Griner,
Richard Moore, Ted Moore, Bart Rhodes, Avery West,
Matt West