



Christmas Eve 2021

Friday, December 24, 3:30 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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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ben Martin

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.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Annie Lillian Bordeaux and Nelle Bordeaux, pianists

* HYMN No. 240

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Luke 2:1-20

Jerry, Lauren, Emma Grace, and Olivia Cohn

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jennifer Thompson

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

Silent Night

Teagan Pennington, pianist

* 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 GIFT OF JESUS

Introduction to the Story

No. 218 It Came upon the Midnight Clear. Stanza 1

Mary and Joseph Arrive in Bethlehem

No. 230 O Little Town of Bethlehem. Stanza 1

Jesus is Born

No. 227 The Friendly Beasts. Stanza 1

No. 217 Away in a Manger. Stanzas 1, 2

The Shepherds Hear the Good News

No. 245 The First Noel. Stanza 1

No. 238 Angels We have Heard on High. Stanza 1

The Wise Men Arrive

No. 254 We Three Kings. Stanza 1

Gifts for Jesus

No. 246 Joy to the World. Stanzas 1, 2

REFLECTION

Ben Martin

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

(Congregation sings)

No. 235 Rock-a-Bye, My Dear Little Boy. Stanzas 1, 2

No. 229 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly. Stanza 1

No. 228 He is Born. Stanzas 1-3

No. 236 While Shepherds Watched. Stanzas 1, 3, 4

No. 251 Go, Tell It on the Mountain. Stanzas 1-3

* LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

* CLOSING HYMN: Silent Night

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.

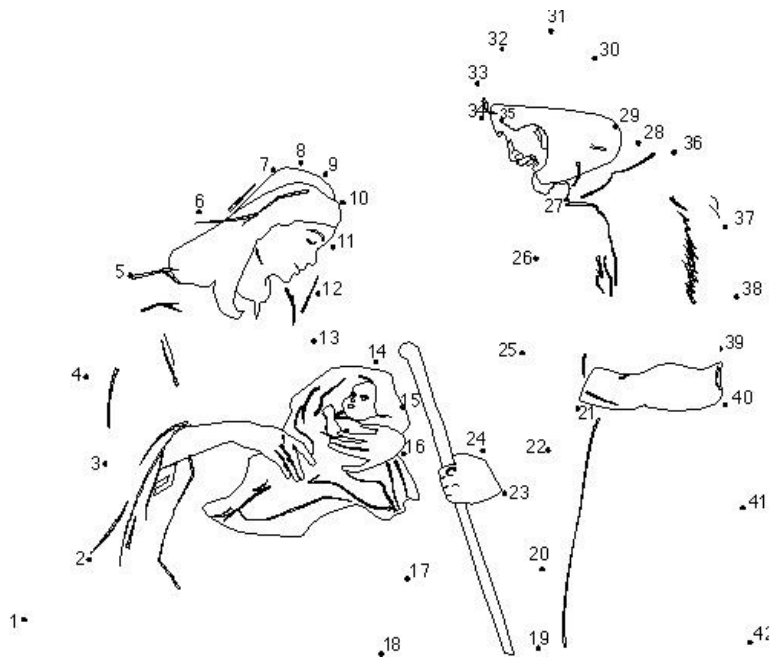
Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

* BENEDICTION

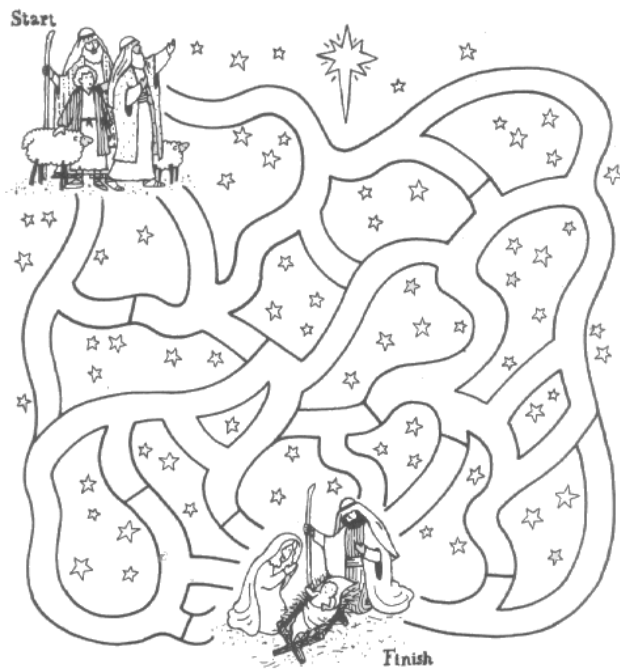
Ben Martin

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

* *Please stand as you are able.*



Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.



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

Children participating in “The Gift of Jesus”:

Alli Mac Willis, Allie McDaniel, Anna Owens,
Anna Wren Daniel, Archer Olliff, Banks Vance,
Beckett McDaniel, Emma Grace Cohn, Fisher Vance,
Gracen Vance, Grayson Pennington, Harris Lane,
Harrison Daniel, Hattie Willis, Heather Haubein,
Hudson Lee, Jack Kornegay, Jennings Olliff, Landis Sterns,
Lynwood Herrington, Maggie Harris, Mary Shor, Millie Shor,
Natalie Hoey, Olivia Cohn, Sadie Mnieckowski,
Teagan Pennington, Will Prather

Acolytes

TBD

Communion Stewards

Emmy Wilcox, Judy Pitts

Greeters

TBD

Ushers

Brian West, James P. Owens

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.