



Christmas Eve 2021

Friday, December 24

7:00 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.

Ben

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VOLUNTARY

David Blackwell

Fantasia on O Come, All Ye Faithful

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. Nursery for infants to 3 years old is located on the first floor.

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.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Haley Hess

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The Acolytes

OPENING VOLUNTARY

arr. Hayes/Gaspard

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Kara Mobley, pianist

INTROIT

Go, Tell It On the Mountain
James Butler and Christopher Butler, soloists
Annie Lillian Bordeaux, pianist

* 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.

* OPENING HYMN No. 246

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Luke 2:1-20

Adam, Stephanie, Jordan, and Haley Hess,
Rev. Steven Hess and Dr. Debra Hess

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

James P. Owens



1. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing, to hear the news the
 2. Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re-deem - er
 3. When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and health come
 4. All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an - gels



an - gels bring. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to
 made us glad. Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then
 sing this night. All out of dark - ness we have light, which



hear the news the an - gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our Re-deem - er made us glad; when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place; heav - en and earth with joy may
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God, on earth be



mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
 sing, all for to see the new - born King.
 peace, good - will to all shall nev - er cease."

SERMON

"Rethink Christmas Part 4"
 Rethink God

Ben Martin

HOLY COMMUNION

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

James P. Owens

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Holy Night

arr. John Rutter

* **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 our Lord and 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:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav'n and



earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the



high - est. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



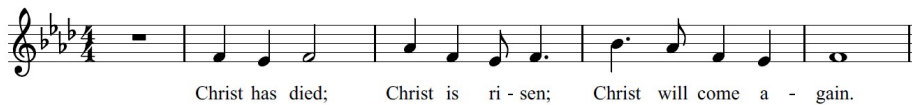
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ...

On the night in which He gave himself up for us, He took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples,
and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over He took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to His disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
Poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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:



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.



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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

The Little Drummer Boy (Peace on Earth)

Derek Llamas, tenor and Ken Rimes, bass

Coventry Carol

Kara Mobley, pianist

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.

