

gloria in excelsis Deo

December 24, 2017
Six O'clock in the Evening

Organ Voluntaries

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
Angels We Have Heard on High

setting by Roy Brunner

setting by David Lowe

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Paul Sims

Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life.

The Promise is fulfilled!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Our candles illuminate our story.

Dawn invades midnight.

The Light of the World has come.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

And this light is a light for all –

igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating love,

lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh

within us and among us now and always.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

+Carol 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

stanzas 1, 2 and 3

+Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Alex Lockridge

+Act of Praise

GOD REST YOU MERRY

Now to the Lord sing praises, all people in this place, with
Christ-ian love and fellowship each other now embrace; and let this day of
worship all bitterness displace: O — ti — dings of comfort and
joy, com-fort and joy, O — ti — dings of com — fort and joy.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Austin Carty

Carol

O Holy Night

by Adolphe Adam

Paul Sims

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born!*

*Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall be break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, his pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.*

- John Dwight, 19th century

The Second Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Alex Lockridge

Carol 111

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:7-14

Austin Carty

+Hymn 127

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

Paul Sims

+Spiritual

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

1. *While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. REFRAIN*
2. *The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel-chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. REFRAIN*
3. *Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. REFRAIN*

Homily

“In Excelsis Deo”

Austin Carty

+Carol 125

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Let us say what we believe:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

- Titus 2:11-14

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

- Isaac Watts, 18th century

The Celebration of Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(the Prayer of Thanksgiving continues)

*Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your name:*

sung: ***Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

*... with thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice,
dedicated to your service.*

Amen.

Breaking the Bread; Blessing the Cup

The Communion of the People

please come forward by way of a center aisle, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, then
partake of the bread and wine; please return to your pew by way of a window aisle and be seated.

+Carol

Silent Night! Holy 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.
Glory streams 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.*

- Joseph Mohr, 19th century

+Benediction

Austin Carty, Alex Lockridge, & Paul Sims

*... and may the Spirit, the Wonderful Counselor, make the good news known to you and through you. **Amen.***

Organ Postlude

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

setting by David Lowe

AΩ

+those who are able may stand

Gayle Majors, Organist

Ann Hacker, Pianist

Ushers will be at exits to receive an offering that will be used throughout the coming year to help local families with emergency needs. Please give generously.