Worship for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2019 Six O'clock in the Evening

Organ Voluntaries

Sing We Now of Christmas O Come, All Ye Faithful Ding Dong, Merrily on High

setting by Anna Laura Page setting by David Lasky setting by Roy Bruner

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Phil Majors

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

Jefferson Calico

+Act of Praise

THE FIRST NOWELL

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord Who hath made heaven and earth of naught, And with his blood humankind hath bought.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

- Traditional English carol

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Phil Majors

Carol 112 Child in the Manger BUNESSAN

The Second Lesson Titus 2:11-14 Alice Tremaine

Carol O Holy Night by Adolphe Adam
Carolyn Garr

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 he 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 Third Lesson Luke 2:1-14 Jefferson Calico

+Carol 125 Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

The Fourth Lesson Luke 2:15-20 Paul Sims

Carol In the Bleak Midwinter by Gustav Holst

Jefferson Calico and Alice Tremaine

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall welcome him when he comes to reign:

In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronging in the air;

But his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the Beloved sweetly with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part. What then shall I give him? I will give my heart.

- Christina Rossetti, 19th century

+Affirmation of Faith Phil Majors

Let us say what we believe:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. Christ is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being; he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Thanks be to God.

- from Hebrews 1

+Carol 102

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

stanzas 1, 2, and 4

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 you 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 Jefferson Calico, Phil Majors, Alice Tremaine, & Paul Sims

Organ Postlude Go, Tell It on the Mountain setting by David Lasky

 $A\Omega$

+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.