

gloria in excelsis Deo

December 31, 2017
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Christmastide

why these songs of happy cheer?

Singing of Carols

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!*

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow and he is in the manger now:
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!*

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!*

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

Call to Worship

Austin Carty

All God's people – boy and girls, women, men:

Come and worship!

Shepherds, Magi, saints and angels:

Come and worship!

All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

Come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

+Hymn 126

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

+Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Paul Sims

+The Peace

Austin Carty

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+Act of Praise

GLORIA

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?

What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

- traditional French carol

what great brightness did you see?

Children's Sermon

Alice Tremaine

+Psalm 148

MENDELSSOHN

Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."

Heav'n and earth, awake and sing, "God is our eternal King."

Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem manifold;

Join with children's songs of praise, worship God through length of days;

Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."

Praise God, all you hosts above, ever shining forth in love;

Sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!

From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:

"Holy, holy, holy One, Glory be to God alone!"

Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."

- Stopford Brooke, 19th century

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 2:22-40

Austin Carty

The Gospel of our Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn

Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple

BUNESSAN

Mary and Joseph came to the temple, brought the boy Jesus, offered him there.

People were waiting, wanting to greet him; long had they sought him, solace for care.

Anna had prayed there, widowed, long waiting, worshiping God by day and by night.

Now she is praising, filled with elation: here is God's promise, Christ is her light.

Simeon sings now: God proffers blessing, brilliantly gilding dawn of his day.

Light in the darkness, never extinguished, Light of all nations, light up our way.

- Andrew Pratt, 20th century

Sermon

“What Great Brightness Did You See”

Austin Carty

what glad tidings did you hear?

+Hymn 125

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

+Offertory Prayer

Alice Tremaine

Loose change received in December will benefit our church's Cold Weather Ministries.

Offertory

Jesus, the Light of the World

setting by André Thomas

Walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy shine bright,

Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je - sus, the Light of the world.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, **Jesus, the Light of the world:***

*“Glory to the newborn King.” **Jesus, the Light of the world. REFRAIN***

*Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace, **Jesus, the Light of the world:***

*Hail, the Sun of righteousness, **Jesus, the Light of the world. REFRAIN***

- Traditional gospel song

Prayers of the People

Paul Sims

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 who 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, forever. Amen.

+Doxology for Christmas

THE FIRST NOWELL

*To God, all glorious heav'nly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thanks and praise.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

- Charles Coffin, 18th century

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+Commission and Blessing

Austin Carty & Paul Sims

*... and may the Holy Spirit open your eyes to the presence of Christ. **Amen.***

Organ Postlude

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

by J. S. Bach

*Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;
This Child now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
The night of darkness ending, our peace eternal making.*

- Johann Rist, 17th century

+ all who are able may stand

Gayle Majors, Organist

Ann Hacker, Pianist