

*The Medley of Carols and Lighting of Candles

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon a midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King”;
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds, The blessed angels sing.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Silent Night! Holy 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

Postlude - Will Benton

A Joyous Christmas

arr. Leavit

*All who are able may stand

Merry Christmas!



Order of Worship

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2016**

11:00 p.m.

Prelude

String Quartet

Ross Amkraut - violin 1

Lisa Hopko - violin 2

Michael Simpson - viola

Jennifer Haber - cello

Scripture Reading & Lighting of Advent Candles

John 1:1-14

Introit

Once In Royal David's City

Verses 1 soloist, Verses 2-3 choir, Verse 4 choir and congregation

***And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.***

Call to Worship

One Let us go, just as we are, to see what has happened. Let us go with the shepherds:

All: let us go and find the One of whom the angels sang.

One: Let us go with those who are wise:

All: let us go and find the One who brings God's truth to us.

One: Let us go with the poor in spirit, and in flesh;

let us go with those who are humbled by life:

All: Let us find the Glory of God born in a stable, and placed in a feeding trough.

One: Let us go with our friends and family,

let us go with our neighbors and with strangers,

let us go with all the children of God:

All: let us go to find the One who comes to lead us home to God's kingdom.

One: O come, let us go to the Babe of Bethlehem; O come, let us adore him!

All: Christ our Lord!

*Hymn of Praise No. 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Anthem

Lo How a Rose E're Blooming

arr. Paul Hanson

Chancel Choir

Call to Reconciliation and Prayer of Confession

One: We begin with such great hopes, such great dreams. We are going to be better, to treat others more fairly, to love more deeply. But we come to the manger once again, knowing our failings, and aware of our brokenness. Let us confess to the One who comes, that our lives might be made new.

All: Emmanuel, God with us, we long to stand beside your manger, to let the wonder and joy of your birth fill our lives with light and beauty. But Lord we find it so difficult to turn aside from the worries and fears that fill our days and turn toward the truth of your love for us. We so easily believe the world's boasts of power and might and quickly forget your promises of justice and peace. We anxiously grab at all the glitter and gold we see around us and and forget the way you touch our lives with grace and love. We hide in the darkness, afraid to look at ourselves in the light of your life. Lord we come to Christmas, but we don't truly open our hearts and lives to the real reason you came to the world; to save us. Forgive us Lord Jesus. Save us from our sins. Transform us with the gift of your life so that we glorify and praise you in everything we do.

(time of silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: The true light that enlightens all has come into the world. That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out.

This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Passing of the Peace

*Response No. 56

The First Nowell (verses 1-4)

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Anthem

Still, Still, Still

arr. Norman Luboff, 1960

Chancel Choir

Christmas Eve Offering

Offertory Hymn No. 53 (remain seated)

What Child Is This

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Solo

O Holy Night

A. Adam, 1847; words, P. Cappeau

Alixandra Molmar

trans. J. S. Dwight

The Celebration of Communion

Communion will be served by intinction. Ushers will escort you forward down the center aisle to receive the bread and cup. Please return to your seat by the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward communion will be brought to you.