

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24th, 2020



Prelude

What Child Is This

arr. Carlson

***Opening Hymn**

Once in Royal David's City

No. 225

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood He would honor and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as He.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around.

***Call to Worship:** Psalm 24 Responsive Reading pp 791-792 Trinity Hymnal

Leader: The Earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it;

Congregation: **for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.**

Leader: Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

Congregation: **He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.**

Leader: He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior.

Congregation: **Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Leader: Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in.

Congregation: **Who is this King of Glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.**

Leader: Lift up you heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of Glory might come in.

Congregation: **Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty- he is the King of glory.**

***Prayer of Invocation**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Scripture Reading 1:

Genesis 3: 1-19

***Hymn**

The First Noel

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

3 And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

5 Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

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Scripture Reading 2:

Micah 5:1-5a

* Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

No. 224

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

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel's chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Scripture Reading 3:

John 1:1-18

***Hymn**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

No. 193

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Sermon Text:

Isaiah 9:2-7

*** Closing Hymn**

Silent Night

No. 210

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,
Heav'nly 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!

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.

***Benediction**

***Gloria Patri**

No. 735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Postlude

*O Little Town of Bethlehem
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

arr. Doran

*** Congregation:** Please stand as able.

Violin/ Piano

Organ

Sermon, Reading & Prayer

Advent Readers

Chris Erickson

Sandy Schoon

Pastor Rev. Andrew Gretzinger

Kathleen & Liam