

Liturgy for 12 Days of Christmas

Evening Prayers

Mondays thru Saturdays

Fourth Presbyterian Church ~ South Boston

6:00 pm GATHERING (A time for connecting meditation)

6:10 pm OPENING SENTENCES

One: From the business of our homes and the stillness of the Sanctuary,

ALL: God's people gather in joy to celebrate a birth.

One: With hopes littering our hearts like wrapping paper under the tree,

ALL: We offer thanks and praise for the gift of grace swaddled in love.

One: With our eyes wide open and with hearts full of wonder,

ALL: We join our lives with Mary and Joseph, and with the shepherds who ran to tell the good news.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS ~ Howard Thurman
(in unison)

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart.

SONG

READING & REFLECTION

COMMUNITY PRAYER (a time for shared prayer)

PASTORAL PRAYER.....concluding with.....

God of mercy and joy, You have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who makes known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this evening and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others. We ask this in Jesus' name, the one who taught us to pray this way.....

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE

What Child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and Angels sing.
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the babe, the son, of Mary!

BENEDICTION & PASSING OF THE PEACE

Songs Of Christmas

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING (119)

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!

Hail! the heaven-born, Prince of peace!

Hail! the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings

Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT (122)

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (133)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, All glory in the highest
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

JOY TO THE WORLD (134)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations
prove, the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN (136)

Refrain: 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. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

THE FIRST NOWELL (147)

The first "Nowell" the angels 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: Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

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)

Twelve Days of Christmas Evening Prayers

December 25, 2020 – January 5, 2021

