



Christmas Eve Worship Service 2020

FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

340 Dorchester Street at Vinton Street

5:30pm

Service of lessons, carols, and celebration of the Light of the World

PRELUDES

Burns Stanfield and Jon Hazilla

WELCOME

Burns

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We begin with a yearning --

People: A desire for peace, a thirst for healing, a hope for Light.

L: And with that yearning we wait, even into the darkness.

P: Then we tell a story.

L: A wonderful story told by varied tellers in different voices, and through Zoom even, a story that tickles our imagination.

P: A story about a child. A story about getting ready. A story about finding a home.

L: From our yearning we move to the gentle proclamation that our Light has come.

P: Our Light has come; and we hold it in the cup of our hands.

All: Together we yearn, together we tell the story, together we hold the light. Let us worship God.

*HYMN (#133, verse 1,3)

“ O Come All Ye Faithful”

(sanctuary)

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;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him (3x) Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:

"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" [Refrain]

*BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Lighting of the Candles

Jennifer Peter, Andrew Ryan, Clara & Cormac

Sung Response (from the sanctuary):

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him...

TIME FOR CONFESSION

(sanctuary)

Unison Confession God of the future, God of the past — You bring hope, and we struggle to recognize its glimmer. You offer a Way, and we choose poor paths. You invite us to wait, watch, and shepherd each other. But we chase, lose sight, and neglect one another. Let us name our distractions. Let us name the choices that have been wrong. Let us name sin... Then breathe your forgiveness upon us, the breath of a small child ready to love these shepherds who wait.

Time for Silent Confession

Sung Response (#88)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel.

LITURGY OF PARDON

The Declaration:

Leader: Sisters and brothers, God has sent us God's precious Son.

People: As God's people, we welcome Jesus into our hearts and celebrate God's great love and mercy.

Leader: As God's children, let us proclaim the good news together:

ALL: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Sung Response (#113) Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains
Glo—ria, in excelsis Deo!

The Passing of the Peace

THE BIRTH OF JESUS, IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-21

Mark Abbott & Barbara Erikson

Song: *Light of the Stable* (sanctuary)

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-33

Joseph Keller

Song: *The First Nowell* (McNeill Shiner)

The first Nowell 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.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7

Dave Courage with Cindy, Matt, Sam
(pre-recorded in Charleston, SC)

Song: *No Room* (sanctuary)

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20

Alyce Lee

Song: *Hark the Herald* (Julie Kurtz)

Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

A ZOOM CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Katie Cole & Co.

WELCOMING AND TENDING TO THE LIGHT

Debbie Duval

Leader: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.**

Leader: I am the Light of the World, says the Lord, the one that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life.

People: The darkness is past and the true light now shines. God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ.

Leader: No one, after lighting a lamp, covers it with a vessel, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light. Let your light shine before people that they may see your good works and give glory to your God who is in heaven.

People: Arise, shine for your light has come: the glory of God has risen upon you!

Gathering the Light- *Please light a candle, dim your lights if you choose, share your light with us and sing...*

*CAROL *O Holy Night*

Oh holy night The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error, pining
'Til He appeared and the soul felt it's worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn'
Fall on your knees, oh, hear the Angels' voices
Oh, night divine, oh, night when Christ was born
Oh, night divine, oh, night, oh night divine

* LESSON John 1: 1-5 (sanctuary)

* CAROL "*Silent 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, loves pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

*THE BLESSING People's Response: Alleluia! Amen
Sung Response (#134): *Joy to the World*

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing (3x)*

POSTLUDE

We welcome all to Sunday morning worship:
"Beholding the Glory of God"
December 27, 10:30am