

A CHRISTMAS HALLELUJAH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2019 – 11:00 PM

The Prelude:

“Variations on <i>In dulci jubilo</i> ”	arr. Denis Bédard
“The First Noel”	arr. Faye López and Jennifer Whitcomb
“Once in Royal David’s City”	arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter
“Silent Night, Holy Night”	arr. Jan Mulder
“Away in a Manger”	arr. Jan Mulder
“In the Bleak Midwinter”	arr. Karen Buckwalter
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”	arr. Lloyd Larson
“Ding Dong, Merrily on High”	arr. Shirley Brendlinger
“Angels from the Realms of Glory”	arr. Lloyd Larson
“Let Earth Receive Her King”	Richard Elliott
(Joy to the World / For unto Us a Child Is Born / Hallelujah Chorus / Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)	

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Sussex Carol” arr. David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring. News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King’s birth.

Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad, when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place. Angels and saints with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night. “Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen.”

*The Call to Worship

He came as a baby in a manger. **O come, let us adore him.**
He came in a lowly stable. **O come, let us adore him.**
Shepherds brought their worship. **O come, let us adore him.**
Angels sang his praise. **O come, let us adore him.**
Magi brought their gifts. **O come, let us adore him.**
What, then, shall we do? **O come, let us adore him.**

*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 76

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Verses 1 & 2: All in Harmony

Verse 3: All in Unison

Interlude

Verse 4: All in Unison

* The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

The Reading: Luke 2:1-20

The Response: “*Il Est Né, le Divin Enfant*”

“He Is Born!”

Donna Gartman Schultz

Il est né, le divin enfant! (He is born, the divine Christ Child!)

Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes.

(Sound the oboe play the harp and drum.)

Il est né, le divin enfant! (He is born, the divine Christ Child!)

Chantons tous, son avènement. (Sing we all, for he has come.)

He is born, he is born!

Through long ages which have passed, prophets told of the Savior’s coming. Through long ages which have passed, we have awaited this happy day. He is born, the divine Christ Child! Sound the oboe, play the harp and drum. He is born, the divine Christ Child! Sing we all, for he has come. O how delightful, O how sweet! O how perfect are his graces. O how delightful, O how sweet! What a joy, this precious Child! A bare stable is his home, a bit of straw now makes his bed; a bare stable is his home, for our God, such a humble place.

Il est né, le divin enfant! (He is born, the divine Christ Child!)

Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes.

(Sound the oboe, play the harp and drum.)

He is born, the divine Christ Child! Sing we all, for he has come!

He is born!

A CHRISTMAS HALLELUJAH

WRAPPED IN CLOTH

“Mary wrapped him in cloth and placed him in a manger, because there was no room at the inn.”

Luke 2:7

The Meditation

The Carol: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly / Christ Is Risen”

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ, the babe, is Lord of all. Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ, the babe, is Lord of all. Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.

2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow; praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ, the babe, was born for you. Christ, the babe, was born for you.

3. Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning see what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

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The Anthem: “Carol of the Inn”

Raymond H. Haan

Holy Christ-Child, gift of love from the Father’s house above, fruit of blessed Mary’s womb, in this inn you will find room, room within my heart.

Here no spacious courts of stone, here no marble steps nor throne, here no pillars, gems, nor gold, here but warmth and will to hold the Maker of my heart.

Not so tidy is this inn, host it is to dirt and sin; though it quakes to hear a knock, still my Lord, there shall no lock hold you from my heart.

Enter now my willing heart, enter, Lord, do not depart. Ruler of all time and space, dwell within this lowly place, dwell within my heart.

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NO HUMAN POWER, NO EARTHLY MIGHT

“How will this be, Mary asked the angel, “since I am still a virgin?”

“The Holy Spirit will come on you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”

Luke 1:34-35

The Meditation

The Hymn Concerto: “See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

Verses 1-3: Choir

arr. David Willcocks

1. *See amid the winter’s snow, born for us on earth below; see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.*

Refrain: *Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption’s happy dawn; sing though all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

2. *Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies; he who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim. (Refrain)*

3. *Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine, thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this. (Refrain)*

(Congregation and Choir)



4. Teach, O teach us, Ho - ly Child, by thy face so



meek and mild, teach us to re - sem - ble thee, in thy sweet hu -



mi - li - ty: Hail, thou e - ver - bless - ed morn; hail, re - demp - tion's



hap - py dawn; sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem,



Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

ANGEL TIDINGS

“An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified.” Luke 2:9

The Meditation

The Anthem: “Angels’ Carol” John Rutter

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices ringing out so sweetly, singing out so clear? Have you seen the star shining out so brightly as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven to the humble shepherds who have waited long? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter’s stillness, like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night; he is come in joy like the sun at morning filling all the world with radiance and with light. He is come in love as the child of Mary; in a simple stable we have seen his birth; Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing: “Peace on earth.”

He will bring new light to a world in darkness, like a bright star shining in the skies above; he will bring new hope to the waiting nations when he comes to reign in purity and love. Let the earth rejoice at the Savior’s coming; let the heavens answer with the joyful morn: “Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing “Christ is born.”

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*The Carol: Lift Up Your Hearts 82
“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Verses 1 & 2: All in Harmony
Verse 3: All in Unison

THE NEWBORN KING

You will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Luke 1:32-33

The Meditation

*The Carol: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing / Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”
(see insert)

The Litany for the Christ Candle:

Our long season of waiting is over. Jesus Christ is born today.
O come, let us adore him!
The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Chiming of the Hour

*The Closing Anthem: “Hallelujah Chorus” from *Messiah* G. F. Handel
All sing; music scores are found in pews

*The Benediction:

Christ is born! Alleluia!

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

May Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, risen with healing in his wings, fill you with the joy and peace that passes understanding. The blessing of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon and remain with you all.

Amen.

*The Postlude:

“Toccata on *He Is Born, the Divine Christ-Child*” Denis Bédard

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Rev. Ruth Boven – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Ruth Bylsma – flutist
Kathy Gomez – oboist
Bells Jubilate, Kurt Stroh – director
Chancel Choir, Merle Mustert – director
Karen Schipper, Peter Schipper – percussionist
Sydney Canlas – violinist
Dan & Natalie Molenbeek – Cross & Bible Bearer
Chad Scholtens – Reader

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In addition to several LaGrave instrumentalists and singers participating in worship this evening, we welcome guest instrumentalists **Kathy Gomez**, a member of the Grand Rapids Symphony, and **Sydney Canlas**, a student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and Merle Mustert’s granddaughter.

Your gifts for Bethany Christian Services will be received at the door following the service. Bethany Christian Services is a Christian adoption and family services agency that manifests the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families through quality social services.

Christmas Banners at LaGrave: The primary sanctuary color of Christmas is white, symbolizing the purity and holiness of Jesus. The Christ child born in the manger was truly God and truly man. The only respect in which his humanity differed from you and me is that Jesus was perfect and lived a sinless life. It was that very sinless life that enabled him to take our sins upon himself.

The gold color represents the kingship of Christ. The colors in the banners bring together the First Advent, purple; the birth of Christ, white; and the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent, gold, in the joy and celebration of Christmas. Christ, our King, is born!

