

WHEN HALF SPENT WAS THE NIGHT

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2021 – 11:00 PM

The Prelude:

“Four French Couplets on <i>While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night</i> ”	Larry Visser
“Joseph Dear, Oh, Joseph Mine”	arr. Chip Davis
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”	arr. Hal H. Hopson
“Once in Royal David’s City”	arr. Lee Dengler
“Sing We Now of Christmas”	arr. Lee Dengler
“Silent Night, Holy Night”	arr. James Koerts
“Christmas Joy Fanfare (Joy to the World)”	Douglas E. Wagner
“Gesù Bambino”	arr. Heather Sorenson
“Willie, Take Your Little Drum (Patapan)”	arr. James Biery
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”	arr. Keith Chapman
“He is Born, the Divine Christchild”	arr. Jan Mulder
“Carol of the Bells”	arr. Douglas E. Wagner
“I Saw Three Ships”	arr. Richard Elliott

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Torches” John Joubert
Torches, torches, run with torches all the way to Bethlehem! Christ is born and now lies sleeping; come and sing your song to him!

Ah, roro, roro, my baby, ah, roro, my love, roro; Sleep you well, my heart’s own darling, while we sing you our roro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry, joy and mirth and joy again; lo, he lives, the King of heaven, now and evermore, Amen.

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*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 87

“Once in Royal David’s City” descant arr. Sir David Willcocks

* The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

THE STUMP BECOMES A SHOOT

The Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

Read by Ann VanEerden

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 79:1,2,4

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

The Anthem: “Before the Marvel of This Night” Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow, then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow. Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease: Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made. Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed. Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss: Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light, now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night. Into one song compress the love, the love that rules our universe above: Sing love, sing love, sing God is love!

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THE SIEGE BECOMES A CELEBRATION

The Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Read by Claude Bos

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 88

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

descant arr. James Borst

The Anthem: “Unto Us Is Born a Son” arr. David Willcocks

Unto us is born a Son, King of quires supernal: See on earth his life begun, of lords the Lord eternal, of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heaven descending low, comes on earth a stranger; ox and ass their owner know, be cradled in the manger, be cradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder, so he gave the word to slay, and slew the little childer, and slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild this the Christmas story; and O that Mary’s gentle child might lead us up to glory, might lead us up to glory!

O and A, and A and O, cum cantibus in choro, let our merry organ go, Benedicamus Domino, Benedicamus Domino.

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THE STABLE BECOMES SACRED GROUND

The Reading: Luke 2:1-14

Read by Brianna VanderVelde

The Meditation

The Hymn: *Worship & Rejoice 187*

“O Holy Night”

The Anthem: “See Amid the Winter’s Snow” John Goss, arr. David Willcocks

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 through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

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

Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today; wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? (Refrain)

As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light; angels singing “Peace on earth” told us of the Savior’s birth. (Refrain)

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, by thy face so meek and mild, teach us to resemble thee, in the sweet humility: (Refrain)

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The Meditation

THE DARKNESS BECOMES LIGHT

The Reading: John 1:1-14

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 92

“Joy to the World”

arr. John Rutter

verse 1: all

verse 2: choir

verse 3: choir

verse 4: all

*The Pealing of the Bells

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Chiming of the Hour

The Christmas Prayer

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 76

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

descant and arr. Sir David Willcocks

*The Benediction

*The Postlude:

“Grand Fantasia on *Joy to the World*”

Marc F. Cheban

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Mike Hoozeboom – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist

Ruth Bylsma – flutist

Donna Baker, Pat Burgess, Julia Hoekstra, Sherri Kantan, Della Landheer, Marcia

Pylman, Marilou Reiffer, Marcia Smits, Jamie VanHekken – handbells

Chancel Choir, Dr. James Borst – director

Natalie Molenbeek – Cross bearer

Everett Smith – Bible bearer

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!



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