

WHEN HALF SPENT WAS THE NIGHT

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2021 –4:00 PM

The Prelude:

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”
“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Michael Burkhardt
Janet Linker

The Chiming of the Hour

*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 92
“Joy to the World”

*The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

THE STUMP BECOMES A SHOOT

The Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

Read by Isabella Redder

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 79:1,2,4
“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

The Anthem: “Christmas Peace Canon” arr. Jean Anne Shafferman
At Christmas time the angels sing a song filled with love for the tiny King, a song of peace and harmony, a song of peace for you and me. Dona nobis pacem.

At Christmas time the angels sing a song filled with love for the tiny King, a song of peace and harmony, a song of peace for you and me. Dona, Dona pacem.

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.

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THE SIEGE BECOMES A CELEBRATION

The Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Read by Micah Manion

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 88
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Anthem: “A Christmas Gloria” Berta Poorman & Sonja Poorman
May the night be filled with beauty. May the snow gently fall. May friends and family gather as we welcome one and all. May we celebrate a birthday, the birthday of a King; and if we listen closely, may we hear the angels sing.

(Refrain)

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria. Hear the angels sing.

May the night be filled with wonder. May the warm firelight glow. May love and laughter meet us everywhere we go. May we celebrate each moment as bells around us ring; and if we listen closely, we may hear the angels sing. (Refrain)

May the night be filled with music. May the whole world seem bright. May children all be joyful on this glorious night. May the carolers lift their voices and sweet noels bring; and if we listen closely, we may hear the angels sing. (Refrain)

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THE STABLE BECOMES SACRED GROUND

The Reading: Luke 2:1-14

Read by Joellah Bouwman

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Meditation

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 86
“Away in a Manger”

The Anthem: “A Christmas Blessing”

Philip W.J. Stopford

May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the worship of the wisemen and the peace of the Christ child be yours, be yours this Christmas.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly, all things heavenly, and fill you with joy and peace.

And the blessing of God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

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THE DARKNESS BECOMES LIGHT

The Reading: John 1:1-14

The Anthem: “Christmas Light”

Kris Crunk

Follow the wisemen this Christmas. Follow the wisemen to see the Christmas Light. Shepherds are watching and waiting. Shepherds are waiting to see the Christmas Light.

Light, shining in Bethlehem. Hope, filling the hearts of men. Rejoice, the angels are singing, “Deo Gloria!”

Come to the manger and bow down. Come to the manger and see the Christmas light.

Gather together to worship. Gather together, we’ll see the Christmas Light. Tell the world that Light has come! Tell the world hope has come! Tell the world, come see the Christmas Light! Deo Gloria!

O star of wonder, star of night, Star will royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to the Christmas Light.

Deo Gloria! Hush, the baby is sleeping. Hush, the baby is sleeping. Hush, the baby who is the Christmas Light. Sleep, O Christmas Light. Peace on earth, good night.

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*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 76

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*The Benediction

*The Postlude:

“He Is Born”

Richard Hudson

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist

Sara Good – organist, pianist

High School Trio & Middle School Choir, Renee Vande Wege – director

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!

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live