

LIGHT OF LIGHT ETERNAL

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2022 – 11:00 PM

The Prelude:

“Two settings of *In dulci jubilo*” (Good Christian Friends, Rejoice)
J. S. Bach

The Pealing of the Bells

“Gloria Fanfare”

arr. Cathy Moklebust

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

arr. John R. Watkinson

“Once in Royal David’s City”

arr. Larry Visser

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

arr. Lloyd Larson

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Richard Elliott

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

“Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol” (Carol of the Bells)

arr. Gerald Near

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

arr. Keith Chapman

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

arr. Cathy Moklebust

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”

arr. Denis Bédard

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit: “Creator of the Stars of Night”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light, O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, chosen mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow: all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 80

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

descant and arr. Sir David Willcocks
and Larry Visser

*The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome and Introduction

LET THERE BE LIGHT

The Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

the reading concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 38:1,3

“In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness”

This stanza follows:

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.

LUYH 78:3

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The Reading: Isaiah 59:4,7-9; Isaiah 9:2-6

the reading concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Anthem: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Walford Davies

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by: yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today! We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

The Reading: Luke 2:1-11

Read by Megan Molenbeek

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

the lighting concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Anthem: “The Star Carol”

John Rutter

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies; bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle, hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

(Refrain) See his star shining bright in the sky this Christmas night! Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven’s highest glory, bear the news with its message of good cheer: “Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us, hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!” (Refrain)

See he lies in his mother’s tender keeping; Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep. Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him, offering their humble gifts before the son of Mary. (Refrain)

Let us all pay our homage at the manger, sing his praise on this joyful Christmas night; Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary! (Refrain)

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THE POWER OF THE LIGHT

The Reading: John 1:1-4

the reading concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 92

“Joy to the World”

THE LIGHT OF LIGHT ETERNAL

The Reading: Revelation 22: 1-5

the reading concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Anthem: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

arr. John Rutter

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture in the body and the blood. He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

Congregation joins:

At his feet the six winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high.

CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

The Reading: Philippians 2:12-16

the reading concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Words of Sending

The Sharing of Christ's Light

As a symbol of our commitment to follow the Light of the world, we will light individual candles with the light spread from the Christ Candle. Please tip your candle toward the lighted candle that is offered to you. As we hold up our lights we will rise and sing the following verses of Silent Night.

The Candle Lighting Hymn: "Silent Night! Holy Night"

verse 3 arr. Larry Visser

All:

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.

All:

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!"

Choir:

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth! Jesus, Lord at thy birth!

All a cappella:

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing alleluia to our King: "Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born."

after all the candles are lit:

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 76

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

descant and arr. Sir David Willcocks and Larry Visser

*The Benediction

*The Postlude: Tocatta-Gigue on *The Sussex Carol*

George Baker

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist

Dr. Larry Visser – organist

Bells Jubilate, Dr. James Borst – director

Chancel Choir, Dr. James Borst – director

Dan Molenbeek – cross bearer

Andrea Hoekzema – bible bearer

Everett Smith, Desmond Smith, Natalie Molenbeek, Megan Molenbeek,

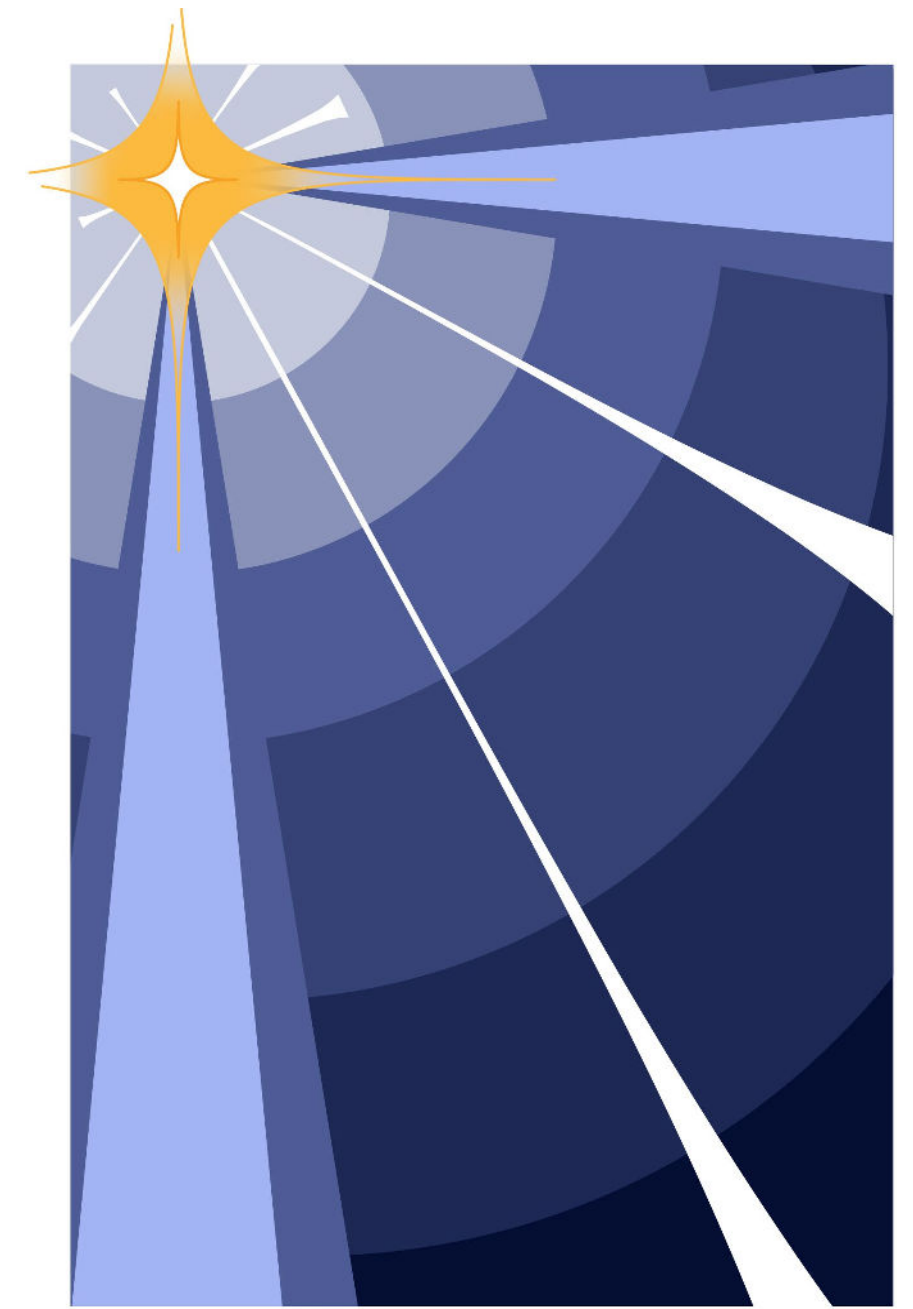
Ruby Van Haitsma, Hannah VandeGriend – acolytes

Jared Mulder – bulletin cover design

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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