

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go 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 giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

What Child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

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.

✦ **BENEDICTION**

✦ **POSTLUDE** *Christmas Joy* Various
OUR WORSHIP NOW ENTERS THE WORLD!



Christmas Past

by Carice Williams

Each Christmas I remember
The ones of long ago;
I see our mantelpiece adorned
With stockings in a row.

Each Christmas finds me dreaming
Of days that used to be,
When we hid presents here and there,
For all the family.

Each Christmas I remember
The fragrance in the air,
Of roasting turkey and mince pies
And cookies everywhere.

Each Christmas finds me longing
For Christmases now past,
And I am back in childhood
As long as memories last.



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We are a Stephen Ministry Church



REV. MARK A. MEDINA, *Transitional Pastor*
REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Pastor of Discipleship*
REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*
JOEL PIERCE, *Director of Music*
CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, *Parish Nurse*



To make Christ known through reconciliation while communicating respect and love to all people.

✦ All those who are able, please stand.

7:00 p.m.

December 24, 2018

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

re. Worship

God with us, in whom there is neither Jew nor Gentile; in the land of Christ's birth come to the hungry places, bringing hope, come to the dark places, bringing justice, come to the lonely places, bringing love. Come again in Bethlehem; come in us, and through us, and even despite us. That all may join the angels' song. Glory to God in the highest heaven. All hail, let there be joy. Amen.

PROLOGUE

Various Christmas Carols

Joel Pierce - organ; Pam Coggins - oboe

WELCOME

Rev. Medina

Please print your name in the Friendship Register provided in your pew.

ENTERING THE NIGHT *I Wonder as I Wander*

Marie Valade - soloist

John Niles

INTROIT

Christ, Be Our Light

arr. Joel Raney

Sanctuary Choir

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.

CALL TO WORSHIP Hope for Those Who Are Willing

John & Barbara Bentley

Leader: Our Savior's birth is celebrated with bold faith.

People: May our hearts be willing.

Leader: Like Mary, who showed humble surrender:

People: May our hearts be willing.

Leader: Like Joseph, who exhibited unconditional trust:

People: May our hearts be willing.

Leader: Like the shepherds, who displayed awe-struck wonder:

People: May our hearts be willing.

Leader: Like the angels, who sang glorious praise:

People: May our hearts be willing.

Leader: For all who are willing to receive the gift of the Savior born in Bethlehem:

All: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES AND THE CHRIST CANDLE
CHOIR AND CONGREGATION SING

Christ, Be Our Light!
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
 BERNADETTE FARRELL

Congregation:



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered to-day.

PRAYER

✠ **CAROL** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Veni Emmanuel 9

INVITATION OF PRAISE AND ADORATION Rev. Medina

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

O God, before whom mountains melt like wax, the earth trembles, and idols are humbled, we proclaim your righteousness as we behold your glory. You have sought out a people and proclaimed them holy; you have sent your chosen one, Jesus, to prepare your way. We have passed through the gates of salvation which he opened for us, and now gather to worship you with our praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

ANTHEM *O Holy Night* arr. Jack Schrader
 Sanctuary Choir and Congregation (when invited)

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
 it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
 till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
 for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
 Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices;
 O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
 O night divine! O night, O night divine!

Choir only:
 Truly he taught us to love one another;
 his law is love and his gospel is peace.
 Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
 and in his name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raising,
 let all within us praise his holy name!
 Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!
 His pow'r and glory forevermore proclaim!
 His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
 His pow'r and glory forevermore proclaim!

CHRISTMAS READING Holding "Kneeling in Bethlehem" by Anne Weems
 Reader: Marcia MacDonald

✠ **CAROL** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Adeste Fielis 41

TIME WITH YOUTH (September-May)

✠ **CAROL** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn 31

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7
 Reader: Karen Brooks

✠ **CAROL** *Comfort, Comfort You My People* Psalm 42 3

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-7
 Reader: Rev. Christopher

✠ **CAROL** *Away in a Manger* Cradle Song 24

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:8-20
 Reader: Don Brooks

CHRISTMAS READING Unexpected "Kneeling in Bethlehem" by Anne Weems

✠ **CAROL** *Angels We Have Heard on High* Gloria 23

MEDITATION: "Jesus: The Birth of the Savior" Rev. Medina

✠ **CAROL** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* Carol 38

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS Rev. Christopher

OFFERTORY *Pavane for a Silent Night* Gabriel Fauré

✠ **DOXOLOGY** Old One Hundredth 592

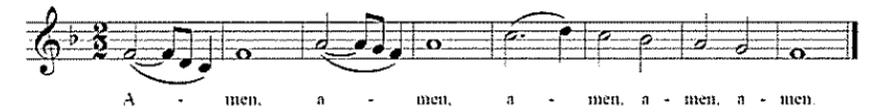
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please join the Choir in singing the Great Amen.



A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

✠ **CELEBRATION CAROL** *Joy to The World!* Antioch 40

PASSING THE LIGHT OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Here is good news of great joy, for all people: God has rescued us from the domain of darkness, and brought us into the realm of Christ, in whom our release is secured, and our sins are forgiven.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never captured it.

Leader: Let us pray that we may know the warmth and brightness of Jesus Christ, and show Christ's love to the world.

People: Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now. Hallelujah! Amen!

The congregation is asked to remain seated.

Please light each candle carefully, leaning the unlit candle toward the lighted one, then passing the light to the next person. The candles will remain lit during the singing of "Silent Night." Following the benediction, the congregation will follow the example of the pastors, raise their candles and extinguish them after they are lowered. Please place your candle in a receptacle at the door when leaving.

SHARING THE LIGHT *Christmas Peace* arr. Mark Hayes
 Sanctuary Choir; congregation when invited

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, heav'nly hosts sing,
 "Alleluia! Christ, the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"