

Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 24, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Prayer before worship

Dear Lord, as we worship you, please help us to focus our hearts and minds upon the abundant love and mercy you have given each of us. As we sing, pray, and listen this evening, may this be a special time of communion with your Spirit. Please unite us in this church so that our worship may be a shout of our love for you into the heavens. May it be our care and delight this Christmas Eve to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels and in heart and mind go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass. May this season inspire us to do the good that Christ has called us to do. Make this a season for giving--a time to help others. Please help us understand your ways in the world and grant us more faith to trust you in difficult times. May this Christmas bring us closer to the spirit of human understanding and closer to the blessing of peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prelude: *Meditation on a Medieval Hymn* C. Callahan, 1993

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Cliff and Sherri Marstiller

*Carol O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love: Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God in the highest [Refrain]
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing
[Refrain]

The Reading

Isaiah 11: 1-2; 6

Hannah Capps

Isaiah's prophecy of the birth of Christ

*Carol Love Has Come

Bring a Torch

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

The Reading

Luke 2: 6-7 Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Sherri Marstiller

*Carol

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In dulci jubilo

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow;
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Reading Christmas Eve by Christina Rosetti Hannah Capps

*Carol In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone
Snow had fallen
Snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long, long ago

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him Nor earth sustain Heaven and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ Angels and archangels may have gathered there Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air But only His mother in her maiden bliss Worshiped the Beloved With a kiss

What can I give Him
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb
If I were a wise man, I would do my part
Yet what I can, I give Him
Give my heart

The Reading Luke 2:8-14

Adoration of the shepherds

Sherri Marstiller

*Carol Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high; sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain:* Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King *Refrain:* Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The Reading John 1:1-14

Cliff Marstiller

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

*Carol Joy to the World

Antioch

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Meditation Dr. Tanner Capps

*Carol Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies, With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die, Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

The Reading The Oxen by Thomas Hardy Hannah Capps

*Lighting of the Individual Candles

*Carol

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

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, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

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, th thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,

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.

Postlude:

Joy to the World

M. Dell 1993

Minister

Dr. Tanner Capps

Organist

Dr. Jessica Scott