

An Order for the Worship of God

CHRISTMAS EVE Paraments – White/Gold
December 24, 2020 5 p.m. Live-Stream

Music for the Christ Child (4:45 p.m.)
Jeron Burney, Eva, Jacob, Nate and Nora Armstrong,
Sylvia Friedl, David Patton

Invocation

Voluntary *In Dulci Jubilo* M. Dupre

Call to Worship Jan McNair

Leader: Jesus, Light of the world,
shine upon us this night.
Shine in our lives,

All: **that we may shine with your love.**

Leader: Shine in our world,

All: **that your light may overcome all darkness
and fear.**

Leader: Shine through our worship,

All: **that our souls may be strengthened
with the power of your light and love.
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the light of the world.**

Hymn 234 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (st.1, 3, and 6)

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.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)

Lighting the Christ Candle Mrs. Sylvia Friedl

Congregational Prayer:

**God of glory, your splendor shines
from a manger in Bethlehem.**

**May we be reflections of that light
to brighten the darkness in our world. Amen.**

Let There Be Light Genesis 1:1-3 and Psalm 136:1-9

Hymn 206 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

(Refrain) *In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)

The People That Walked in Darkness

Have Seen a Great Light Rev. Laura Shearer
Luke 1:76-79 and Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

Solo *There's a Song in the Air* arr. Friedl
Sylvia Friedl piano

Prayer

**O God, tonight your light
radiates through the world.
Inasmuch as we can, let us be bright for you.
Shine your light through us
as though we were pieces in a stained-glass window.
Flow through us into others
as the warm glow of colors seeps into a church.
Fill us with your light
as though we were lighthouses on the shore.
Use us to guide others
and to keep them from danger.
Turn us on with your light
as though we were Christmas bulbs
all connected to one another.
Help us as a community of faith to celebrate
the sparkling good news of your Son's birth.
Be present with us, God, as we worship the One
who is the world's light. Amen.**

The Light of the Glory of God Luke 2:8-14

Duet *Nowell!* Michael Cox
Jacob and Nate Armstrong

Time for Children

The True Light That Gives Light to All John 1:1-14

Hymn 230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth!

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;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

You Are the Light of the World

John 12:46 and Matthew 5:13-14

Prayers of Intercession

Response: **Lord, let your light shine in us.**

Solo *O Holy Night* A. Adam

Sermon *Anticipation: Light* Dr. C. Mark Gooden

Invitation to Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.
When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,
forgive us, Lord.
When our caring is not extended to action,
forgive us, Lord.
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: Do not be afraid!
Hear the good news of great joy for *all* people:
a savior has been born this night for you!
Glory to God!
All: **Amen!**

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: In peace, Christ came into our world.
With peace, Christ comes to us now.
Let us greet one another in the peace and
joy of Christmas love.
To each other: **Christ's peace be with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
(the Great Thanksgiving continues)

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread and Blessing the Cup Sharing the Bread and Cup

*(Tonight's communion offering will benefit
the Hearts and Hands Fund.)*

Prayer after Communion (in unison)

**Almighty God, you have poured upon us
the new light of your incarnate Word:
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts,
may shine forth in our lives,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Lighting the Candles

Silent Night

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, at 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!

The Benediction

Voluntary *What Child Is This* John Behnke

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Our Music Ministry offers the gift of Christmas music.

Previously released as a CD, **Seasons of Joy** can be accessed on YouTube. You can play the music via YouTube as you eat dinner, sit by the fire, assemble puzzle pieces, or prepare goodies in your kitchen. There's something for everyone to enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OYt81kuEGI>

In **Christmas Treasures**, we bring together celebrations of Christmases past in this enjoyable video of our children, youth and adult singers and instrumentalists. Sing along with the carols, and delight in the memories of the Christmas season, given to you as a gift from our Music Ministry. Go to www.firstcentenary.com/sanctuary

Last Sunday's **Service of Lessons and Carols** is also available on the church website. Go to the Sanctuary Worship section to livestream services. You'll find an edited version (30 minutes) or the full service with all the music, readings and the sermon.

