

CHRISTMAS EVE

Reverend Carolyn Keilig, Worship Leader
Online Worship
Christmas Eve – December 24, 2021

PRELUDE “Silent Night” – arr. Joel Raney Adam Peithmann
WELCOME Rev. Carolyn Keilig

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Peter Perich

Reader: Though the holiday lights are bright, shadows remain in the world around us.

People: Some of us have walked in those shadows. Some walk there even now.

Reader: Though the warm glow of holiday cheer pushes back the long, looming nights,

People: Some among us in this world have lived in a land of darkness, and will live there still when the season has passed – a land of tragedy and grief.

Reader: Tonight we light our few small candles – a paltry glimmer when we think of the world outside. We light them not to banish the shadows, to somehow vanquish the night, but to change the heart of darkness. For God dwells even there, in the darkness of a barn, deep in the shadows of a stall, down in the pitch black of a feeding trough, with only a faint glimmer of starlight outside.

People: In that holy darkness, God comes to us and shares our common lot.

Leader: One fragile, incandescent life, to begin the world anew. “A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” Instead, the darkness itself is found to have a holiness all its own.

OPENING CAROL # 148 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: On this holiest of nights,

People: we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

Leader: On this most silent night,

People: we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

Leader: On this night of carols and candlelight,

People: we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER (Unison)

In the silence of this moment, we listen for the whisper of your joy which has come into the world this night. In the music and the carols, sing to us of the grace which fills us here in this place and in all the days to come. In the words we hear, speak to us of that Birth which brings new life to each and every one of your children. In the company of friends and families, of strangers and new acquaintances, gather us together so we may be your holy family in this time and place. In the love and hope which is given to us, touch us with your wonder. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING “Christmas Lullaby” – arr. Christine Anderson Terri Pattee, Handbells

SCRIPTURE READINGS Peter Perich
Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

MUSICAL OFFERING “What Child is This?” – arr. Vince Guaraldi Leo LeBlanc, Percussion

SERMON “Dwelling in Darkness” Rev. Carolyn Keilig

RECEIVING THE LIGHT

CAROL # 145 *Silent Night, Holy 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.

WORDS OF CLOSING

CAROL # 150 “Hark! The Herald Angel’s Sing”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Carillon” from 24 Pieces in Free Style – Louis Vierne

Hymn No. 148

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

1. 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)

Refrain:

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

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

3. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee, with love and awe; who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? (Refrain)

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation, Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

Carol No. 150

“Hark! The Herald Angel’s Sing”

3. All hail the Sun of Righteousness! He is risen with healing in his wings. His glory by no more may die; born to raise us from the earth to second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing to the newborn King. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

1. 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!”

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the God head see; hail the incarnate Deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

3. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all the 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!”