



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

## Prelude

Lo How a Rose e'er Blooming

*Allison & Kelly Beaman*

*Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.*

## Chiming of the Hours

## Introit

Still, Still, Still

the Bouma Family

## Call to Worship

Pete Peterson, liturgist

O sing to the Lord a new song:

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;

**Tell of God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations,

**God's marvelous works among all the people.**

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

**Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.**

## \*Proclamational Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

47-70  
1-24-76  
195

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin, 18th century; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841 (alt'd)

J. F. Wade, 1711-1786  
St. 1 only

ADESTE FIDELES, 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O  
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;  
 3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that hap - py morn - ing;

1. come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem.  
 2. sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove:  
 3. Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,

Refrain  
 1. Come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels: O  
 2. "Glo - ry to God, in the high - est!" O  
 3. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing: O

come, let us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him; O

come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## **\*Invocation**

O Word made Flesh, you have come into our midst as light and wisdom, desiring to be known to us in our lives and to be found in the world around us. Open our eyes and ears and hearts to recognize you where you dwell—in our midst—challenging, heartening, lighting the way to truth, justice, and peace. Amen.

## **\*Gloria**

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

## **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

the Steffen Family

We have sought hope in the midst of grief and peace for our weariness. Our mourning was turned to joy and our fear to love. Now Christ enters our lives, again, embracing our human struggles and witnessing to divine power that confronts the forces of this world that lead to death. We give thanks for God's presence among us.

**God be with us, in the Light of Christ.**

## **Hymn**

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

# Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

196

Charles Wesley, 1739 (text of 1753, alt'd)

from a melody by F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840;  
arranged by W. H. Cummings, 1856

MENDELSSOHN, 77.77 D with refrain

1. Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King.  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace, hail, the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

1. Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
2. late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
3. Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

1. Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies,  
2. Veiled in flesh, the God - head see; hail, th' in - car - nate De - i - ty;  
3. Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

1. with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem."  
2. pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el.  
3. born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Unison

Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

NATIVITY

## **Gospel Lesson**

Luke 2: 1-20

*Pew Bible*, pages 54-55

For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Word in Song**

Night

Claire Bouma

## **Homilies**

A New World

Rev. Katie Miller and Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

## **\* Hymn**

Joy to the World!

24-96  
29-96

# Joy to the World!

198

Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH, CM

Lowell Mason, 1832

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her King;  
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: let us our songs em - ploy;  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

1. let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and heaven and na - ture sing,  
 2. while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy,  
 3. he comes to make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is found,  
 4. the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness, and won - ders of his love,

and heaven and na -

1. and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 2. re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 3. far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 4. and won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 ture sing,

and heaven and na - ture sing.

## Offertory

Away in a Manger

## \*Hymn of Dedication

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below.  
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God whom we adore.  
 Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel has come to thee, O Israel.

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

Rev. Katie Miller

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts be signs of your presence with us, as they further your dream for a new world. Amen.

## **\*Passing of the Peace**

*"The Peace of God be with you."*

*In Unison:* Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

## **Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

God be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed all humanity in your image and called us to love you and serve the world. Even when we turned from you, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity and made covenant with us. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus. Your word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth, and we beheld your glory, Emmanuel. In the beloved community of your church, we celebrate the new covenant Christ Jesus made with us by water and the Spirit. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the song of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place, to forever sing the glory of your name:

Holy, holy God, you are holy. Ruler of the sea and sky. Angel hosts above adore you. Earth sings out its endless cry: "Hail hosanna in the highest!" "Peace on Earth," the heav'ns reply.

Words of Institution

Invitation to the Table

The Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we give you thanks, for a child has been born, filling us with wonder. We now take this Christ light, sharing it with one another and with all those whom we encounter. May it bring comfort and joy. Amen.

# Passing of the Light

## Hymn

### Silent Night, Holy Night

CHRISTMAS

## Silent Night, Holy Night

134

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Transl. John F. Young, c. 1863; alt.

Luke 2:1-20

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight,  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Child of God, love's pure light,

Round you vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,  
Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia;  
Ra - dian beams from your ho-ly face bring the dawn of re - deem - ing grace;

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.  
Je - sus Christ at your birth, Je - sus Christ at your birth.

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It features three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in three parts, with the first part having three verses. The second part has three verses, and the third part has three verses. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

## Benediction

Jesus is the Light of the World. A Light that shines in the night. A Light that the night has never overtaken. Go forth bearing that Light. For the Glory of God dwells in us.