

# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2020

**PRELUDE**      "Concerto Grosso in G Minor"      Arcangelo Corelli  
                  "Op. 6 No. 8 – The Christmas Concerto"      Corelli  
*Mary & Ethan Coburn, Joanna Robertson, Maddie Filkhorn & Brendan Coffey*

## WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

**INTROIT**      "The Wonder of Christmas"      Raney

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY (Responsive)

During Advent, we have journeyed in faith toward God's wondrous gift.

**O come, let us adore him.**

During Advent, we stood in awe of God's saving grace.

**O come, let us adore him.**

During Advent, we recalled the promise of God's spoken word.

**O come, let us adore him.**

During Advent, we waited for the time of God's glorious arrival.

**O come, let us adore him.**

Tonight our waiting is over, our eyes are open, and the gift is given.

**O come, let us adore him.**

*Lighting the Christ Candle*

## RESPONSE

There is wonder in the hope  
of the birth of a king,  
there is wonder in the sound  
of the angels as they sing.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel.  
and join us here.

## ADVENT PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for guiding us throughout this season of wonder. We stand amazed at the promise now fulfilled and awed by your humble birth. Help us receive, again, the joy and wonder of the greatest gift offered to the world. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our newborn King. Amen.

**HYMN**      "O Come All Ye Faithful"      No. 41

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:  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord!

2 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]

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all  
Glory in the highest![Refrain]

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, the grace of God in Jesus our Lord calls us to live holy lives, following his way. On this eve of Jesus's birth, we confess our struggle to fully receive him as Lord.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world:

how oppression still enslaves;  
how garments of war are still stained with blood;  
how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety.

We also see what is wrong in us:

how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith;  
how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church.

Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid.

Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you.

In the Savior's name we pray. **Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSON

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Good news! Great joy! In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in heaven, and on earth, peace. **Thanks be to God.**

## SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

Because God so loved the world, God sent the Son into the world. In response to this good news of great joy, we offer songs of praise, tithes and offerings, and acts of service.

*You may mail an offering to the church, or may give online through our website, [cazpres.org](http://cazpres.org).*

**OFFERTORY**    “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”    Arr. Jon Schmidt  
*Mary Coburn and Joanna Robertson*

## DOXOLOGY

No. 592

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

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Great God, accept these gifts we offer as we wait in hope for your coming again. Use all that we have and all that we are as you bring light in every darkness, ease heavy burdens, and turn our endless warring into your endless peace. In Christ's name, we ask it. **Amen.**

## HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
*Verses 1 & 4*

No. 44

1 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.

4 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!

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We would make room for you this night of all nights, dear Lord: room in our minds and hearts; room also in our life together. Let your word be born in us anew so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, your splendor shines in us and through us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

**OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

**2** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.  
<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>a</sup> the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>b</sup> praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”<sup>c</sup>  
<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When

**SPECIAL MUSIC****“O Holy Night”**

Adolphe Adam

Katie McGinnis and Vince Guarneiri

they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;<sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**SERMON**                    “Christ in You”

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from the Gospel of John, chapter 1)

In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. To all who received him he gave power to become children of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen god. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

**HYMN**                    “Silent Night”                    No. 60  
                                Verses 1 &4

1 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.

2 Solo Verse – *Shelly Brooks, Soprano*

4 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!

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“Toccata”  
*Michael Guarneiri, Organ*

Théodore Dubois

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