



# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020 • 4pm



PRELUDE

CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS

ARR. PAUL MANZ

KRISTY GIERE, ORGAN

SILENT NIGHT (STILLE NACHT WITH DONA NOBIS PACEM)

ARR. SONDRA K. TUCKER

HANDBELL QUARTET

THE SLEEP OF THE INFANT JESUS

ARR. GILBERT M. MARTIN

RALPH SCHORNACK, PIANO; KRISTY GIERE, ORGAN

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

L: Prince of Peace, be born again into our world. In the midst of isolation and loneliness, come, O Long-Expected One, with healing in your wings. Holy Child, about whom the angels sang and the shepherds came to visit, be born again. Wherever there is fear of failure, wherever there is temptation too strong to resist, wherever there is bitterness of heart, come, O Blessed One, with healing in your wings. Savior, be born in each of us this night. We ask only that your love always be with us and that it might make us whole. Come quickly. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

EMMANUEL

BOB MCGEE

Quartet-first time,  
All-on repeat

Em-man - u - el, \_\_\_\_\_ Em-man - u - el, \_\_\_\_\_ His name is called \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Em-man - u - el: \_\_\_\_\_ God with us, \_\_\_\_\_ re-vealed in us! \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ His name is called \_\_\_\_\_ Em - man - u - el.

"EMMANUEL"  
By Bob McGee  
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CAROL

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

**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!**

*Quartet* The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain***

ENTRANCE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

LUKE 2:1-7 NRSV

STORYTIME

PASTOR JASON BRYAN-WEGNER

CAROL

AWAY IN A MANGER

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

HANDBELLS

STILL, STILL, STILL  
HANDBELL QUARTET WITH PIANO

ARR. ANNE KRENTZ ORGAN

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 2:8-12 NRSV

ANTHEM

THE FIRST NOWELL

FROM ERIC SATIE'S *GYMNOPIÉDIE*  
ARR. ALICE CARPENTER

A VIRTUAL ANTHEM BY THE ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHOIR  
The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay tending their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

POEM

THE DARKEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

CHRISTOPHER FRY

ANTHEM

BEFORE THE MARVEL OF THIS NIGHT

JAROSLAV J. VAJDA  
AND CARL SCHALK

CHRISTMAS EVE QUARTET

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 2:13-15 NRSV

CAROL

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

**It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.**

*Quartet* Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

**And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!**

## CAROL

## INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

*Quartet* Infant holy, infant lowly,  
 for his bed a cattle stall;  
 oxen lowing, little knowing  
 Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
 bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
 Christ the child is Lord of all!  
 Christ the child is Lord of all!

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
 vigil till the morning new  
 saw the glory, heard the story,  
 tidings of a gospel true.  
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
 praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
 Christ the child was born for you!  
 Christ the child was born for you!**

## SERMON

## LONGING FOR NORMAL

PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON

## ANTHEM

## ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

ARR. ANNE KRENTZ ORGAN

*A gift from the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians to the whole people of God celebrating Christmas in the era of the pandemic. With deep gratitude to Anne Krentz Organ, carol setting arrangement, and 1,008 vocal and instrumental participants, including members of the Zumbro Lutheran Choir.*

*Dedicated to the Glory of God and in gratitude to the many musicians, directors, composers, singers, organists and instrumentalists involved in planning, preparing and making music for worship.*

## PRAYER

L: When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is dimmed, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to bring peace and harmony among brothers and sisters, and to make music in the heart. Help us, Lord, to love as you have first loved us. Amen.

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE I AM SO GLAD EACH CHRISTMAS EVE

**I am so glad each Christmas Eve,  
the night of Jesus' birth!  
Then like the sun the star shone forth,  
and angels sang on earth.**

**The little child in Bethlehem,  
he was a king indeed!  
For he came down from heav'n above  
to help a world in need.**

*Quartet* He dwells again in heaven's realm,  
the Son of God today;  
and still he loves his little ones  
and hears them when they pray.

**I am so glad each Christmas Eve!  
His praises then I sing;  
he opens now for ev'ry child  
the palace of the king.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO SHARE THE MEAL

OF THE FATHERS' LOVE BEGOTTEN  
KRISTY GIERE, ORGAN

ARR. GILBERT M. MARTIN

PRAYER

L: God of hope, you shined your light on the broken places of our world. We give you thanks for a meal of love and a taste of healing. Send us into the world to share that healing love with everyone we meet. Amen.

## LIGHTING OF CANDLES

## SILENT NIGHT

ARR. SUSANN McDONALD

MARY SCHNEEKLOTH, HARP

*A number of people have submitted videos of virtual candlelighting. We invite you to light a candle at home.*

## CAROL

## SILENT NIGHT

*Quartet* Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

**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,  
heav'nly 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 your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

## PRAYER

L: Almighty God, you have made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence, and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*For those with candles lit, you may extinguish them at this time.*

## BLESSING

L: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

**C: Amen.**

CAROL

JOY TO THE WORLD

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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, wonders of his love.**

POSTLUDE

ON THIS DAY EARTH SHALL RING

ARR. ROBERT J. POWELL

KRISTY GIERE, ORGAN

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

**PROCLAIMER**-Pastor Vern Christopherson; **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**-Pastor Shelley Cunningham, Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner; **ORGANIST**-Kristy Giere; **SINGING**-Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Bob Giere, director; Todd Christensen, virtual anthem producer; Christmas Eve Quartet-Alan Hansen, Meredith Pritchard, Janette Reeves, Ralph Schornack; **HARPIST**-Mary Schneckloth; **HANDBELL QUARTET**-Paul Bye, Pam Hammond, Andy Larson, Sue Schwartz; **PIANIST**-Ralph Schornack

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Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace  
to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.

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