

Worship for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2009 – Eleven O'clock in the Evening

Greeting

John Hewett

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Organ Voluntary

Timothy Belflowers

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Starkey Family

What hope is greater than fear?

What peace is mightier than suffering?

What joy is deeper than sorrow?

What love is stronger than evil?

***We find the answer to those questions
embodied in Jesus of Bethlehem's cradle –
King of kings and Lord of lords.***

*“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High;
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,
and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever;
and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

***By faith we light this Christ candle,
affirming our loyalty to Jesus Christ,
Son of God, Son of man, Savior forever.***

+ Carol 173

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

J. T. Taylor

+ Carol 171

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

Sarah Coffey

Carol

“What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

Karla Davis, soloist

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

– William Dix, 19th century

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-14

Sally Goodwin

Carol 156

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

John Hewett

Spiritual

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

REFRAIN

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*

REFRAIN

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

REFRAIN

Homily

"Christmas Is a Verb: Find"

John Hewett

Carol

"O Holy Night"

by Adolphe Adam

Paul Sims

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.*

*Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, his power and glory evermore proclaim.*

+ Affirmation of Faith

Sara Spahr Stubbs

Let us say what we believe:

*We believe that on this glad night Deity was cradled in a manger,
that there was Emmanuel, God-with-us. We believe that this one
is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We call
him Jesus for he has saved us from our sins.*

*We believe that Jesus is God-for-us, our Savior and Friend. We believe
he is the Prince of Peace, the very Word of God made flesh to dwell
among us, and that as we receive him we become children of God.*

*We believe that he is not only God of our lives, but also Lord of the world.
In him, and for him all things were made. We believe he is the Light of the World,
the King of all kings.*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Alleluia! Amen

*The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.*

The Celebration of Communion

Breaking the Bread; Sharing the Cup

music during Communion:

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

by R. MacGimsey

Peter Haley, soloist

*Sweet little Jesus Boy they made you be born in a manger.
Sweet little Holy Child didn't know who you was.
Didn't know you'd come to save us Lord; to take our sins away.
Our eyes was blind, we couldn't see, we didn't know who you was.
Long time ago you was born,
Born in a manger low sweet little Jesus Boy.
The world treats you mean Lord, treats me mean too,
But that's how things is down here: we don't know who you is.
You done told us how; we is a-trying.
Master you done showed us how even when you was dying.
Just seems like we can't do right, look how we treated you.
But please sir, forgive us Lord. We didn't know 'twas you.
Sweet little Jesus Boy they made you be born in a manger.
Sweet little Holy Child didn't know who you was.*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem ”

ST. LOUIS

*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 men 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.*

– Phillips Brooks, 19th century

Carol

“Silent Night! Holy Night”

STILLE NACHT

*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! darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing, “Alleluia! Hail the King!
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 the King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

– Joseph Mohr, 19th century

+ Benediction

John Hewett

Organ Postlude

Timothy Belflowers

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+ Those who are able may stand

*Ushers will be at exits to receive an offering that will benefit the Union County Community Homeless Shelter.
All undesignated gifts will be given directly to this ministry.*