

Worship for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2009
Six 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

Scott, Terri, Skylar and Ria Edwards

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
stanzas 1 and 3

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Sara Spahr Stubbs

+ Carols 147 and 149
sung in alternation

"Away In a Manger"

AWAY IN A MANGER/CRADLE SONG

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Paul Sims

Carol 162

stanza 1

“The First Noel, the Angel Did Say”

THE FIRST NOEL

Scripture Reading

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

+ 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

John Hewett

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:

“O Holy Night”

by Adolphe Adam

sung by 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.*

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.*

+ Benediction

John Hewett

Organ Postlude

Timothy Belflowers

† † †

+ 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.*