

Christmas Eve Service

Revs. Cara & Steve Stultz Costello, Co-Pastors

December 24, 2015 11:00 PM

WELCOME

PRELUDE: CHRIST REVEALED

Cradle Hymn

Kim Andre Arnensen

Hush! my dear, lie still and slumber, Holy angels guard thy bed! Heavenly blessings without number gently falling on thy head. See the kindly shepherds round Him, telling wonders from the sky! Where they sought Him, there they found Him, with His Virgin mother by. See the lovely babe a-dressing; lovely infant, how He smiled! When He wept, the mother's blessing. Soothed and hush'd the holy child. May'st thou live to know and fear Him, trust and love Him all thy days; then go dwell for ever near Him, see His face, and sing His praise! Amen!

Schola Cantorum; Heather Cooper, associate director

*HYMN OF INTENTION "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 211 vs. 1,2,4,7

*BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Acolyte

*CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Thom Schuman

One: On this most silent night,
Many: **we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.**
One: On this nights of carols and candlelight,
Many: **we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.**
One: On this holiest of nights,
Many: **we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.**
One: On this night of nights,
Many: **We come because God has first come to us.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

ANTHEM *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us. Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo! His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth, Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him. God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him. On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

Chancel Choir; Daniel Parsley, director; Heather Cooper, piano; Julie Sarver, flute

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Micah 5:2-5a

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 230 vs. 1 & 4

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1: 26-38

ANTHEM *Bogoroditsye Devo* Aarvo Pärt

Rejoice, O virgin Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, for thou has borne the Savior of our souls.

Schola Cantorum; Daniel Parsley, director

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-7
*HYMN "Once in Royal David's City" No. 250

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE No. 248 vs. 4

OFFERING OFFERTORY *Betelehemu* Nigerian carol; arr. Whalum

We are glad that we have a Father to trust. We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon. Where was Jesus born? Bethlehem, the city of wonder. That is where the Father was born for sure. Praise, praise, praise be to Him. We thank Thee for this day, gracious Father. Praise, praise, praise be to Thee, merciful Father.

*DOXOLOGY No. 94 or See Below

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:8-14
ANTHEM "Glory to God" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men."

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2: 15-20

*HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" No. 238

GOSPEL LESSON Isaiah 61: 1-4

SERMON *Birth Stories* Rev. Steve Stultz Costello

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION No. 8-11

ANTHEM *O Magnum Mysterium* Morten Lauridsen

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger! O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

And the Glory from Messiah G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken

Lully, Lullay, Lulla Philip Stopford

Lully, Lulla, Lullay By, by, Lully, Lullay, thou little tiny Child. O sisters too how may we do for to preserve this day, this poor youngling for whom we sing. Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day. His men of might in his own sight, all young children to slay. That woe is me, poor Child for Thee, and ever morn and day. For Thy parting neither say nor sing.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(Please remain seated for the singing of "Silent Night" and watch for the light of Christ. Please allow the ushers to light the candles of those on each end of the pew. Tip your unlit candle to the flame and then pass the light.)

HYMN

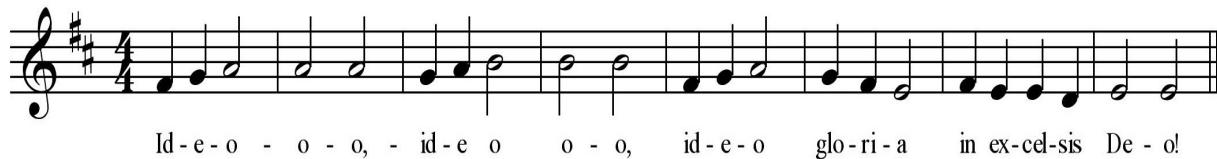
"Silent Night"

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, 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 our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



*CHRIST'S LIGHT TO THE WORLD

Acolyte

*POSTLUDE

Angels from the Realm of Glory

Edwin Johnson

**Please stand, as you are able*

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