

Christmas Candlelight Service

ORGAN PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROL

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord! — *attr. John F. Wade*

Repeat the stanzas until the procession has been completed.

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Congregation: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

The Gloria Patri may be sung by choir and congregation.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

—*James Montgomery*

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-7

IT CAME UPON THE 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.

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!

—*Edmund H. Sears*

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

—*Charles Wesley*

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-20

ANTHEM or SPECIAL MUSIC

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their
sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

—*English*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CANDLES*

The pastor lights a candle from the altar candles; the ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle. The ushers then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle.

Lighted candles should not be dipped, to avoid wax dripping on the floor. The unlighted candle should be dipped when lighting it from a neighbor's candle.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY 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!
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. —*Joseph Mohr*

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Almighty God, you 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. Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

CLOSING PRAYER (followed by the Lord's Prayer)

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROL

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its 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 of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love. —*Isaac Watts*

**Where use of individual candles is not legal or desirable, additional candelabra at the front of the church may be lighted at this time. Or, use of individual candles may be limited to members of the choir.*

The Candlelight Service