

## Order of Worship

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE *"Mary's Lullaby"* Rutter  
Amy Duran, piano

WELCOME

### ***Our Approach to God***

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) from Psalm 98

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things. His right hand and His holy arm have gotten Him victory.

**People: The Lord has made known His victory; He has revealed His vindication in the sight of the nations.**

Leader: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

ANTHEM *"O Holy Night"*  
Maya Eng, Amy Duran

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7

CAROL *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* #250, v. 1-3

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 wond'ring 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 giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**God, we have no conception of how much You love us. We have no conception of why You love us. With all our faults and flaws, You reach out to embrace us. You delight in us just as we are. Even we can't say that. We try and resist and reset our flaws. And you simply see through them. We thank You in the name of Jesus. And we ask for Your Spirit to be among us strongly as we worship together with God's people, even as we're apart. Amen.**

ANTHEM *"Greensleeves"*  
Laura Tillack, violin; Rhoda Tillack, viola; Amy Duran, piano

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE,

Leader: The season for watching and waiting is over. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

**People: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of His salvation from day to day. "Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples."** (Psalm 96:1-3)

Leader: "Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth." (Psalm 96:7-9)

**People: "Say among the nations, 'The Lord is King!' Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth."** (Psalm 96:10a, 11a, 13b).

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-12

\*HYMN

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

#251, v. 1, 2, & 4

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, goodwill to men, from heav'n's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still thro' 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.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

***The Word of God***

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:13-20

CAROL

*"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night"*

#272, v. 1, 3, & 4

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

"To you, in David's town this day is born, of David's line,  
The Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:

"The heav'nly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing band, and in a manger laid, and in a manger laid.

SERMON

*"Turn Your Scars into . . . Never Mind"*

Pastor Sayer

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

OFFERING

## *The Service of Lights*

### THE CANDLELIGHTING

#### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

*"Silent Night"*

#253

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; heavenly hosts sing alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

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!

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.

### THE GENERAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### CAROL

*"Joy to the World"*

*arr. Hawes*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King.  
Let every 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 world! the Savior reigns; let men 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 makes 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.

### BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

*"The First Noel"*

*arr. Carter*

Amy Duran, piano

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