

Worship for First Presbyterian Church, Newton
December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve Service

Prelude:
"Silent Night" Setting by Joel Raney
(Piano Duet: Frances Whitener and Susan Strickland)

"The Light Came Down" Josh Garrels
(John and Madeline Stockburger)

"I Wonder as I Wander" John Jacob Niles
(Margy Butterfield, soprano)

"O Come to the Manger" arr. Douglas E. Wagner
(Ellen Williams, clarinet; Susan Strickland, piano)

"Ave Maria" Franz Schubert
(Addie Joplin, soprano)

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" Richard Willis/arr. Cindy Berry
(Susan Albano, piano)

"Gesu Bambino" Pietro Yon
(Cathy Murdock, soprano)

"O Holy Night" Adolphe C. Adam
(Sam Choate, flugelhorn/trumpet)

"Mary Sweet Mary" Tiffany Arbuckle-Lee and Keith Thomas
(Laura Sparks, soprano; Ray Rhinehart, tenor)

Chiming of Hour

Welcome and Announcements ends with: Jesus says, "I am coming soon. Amen!"
Come, Lord Jesus!

Call to Worship and Advent Wreath Lighting Ray & Suzanne Rhinehart

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in the days to come: when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

The calf and the lion and the fattling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord! Amen.

Opening Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (GTG #133)
(Sam Choate, trumpet)

John Frances Wade

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!**

(refrain) **O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**True God from God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten not created! (refrain)**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (refrain)**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (refrain)**

Prayer of Adoration

Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and lived among us, that we might become your people.

Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you rule and direct our lives.

Glory to you, Almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever! Amen.

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Sermon: "Light In a Dark Time"

Rev. David Roquemore

Anthem: "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt" Jaroslav Vajda/Craig Courtney
(Sam Choate, Flugelhorn)

Where shepherds lately knelt, and kept the angel's word,
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me.
In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! And in a manger bed:
A still small Voice to cry one day for me.
How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare;
A Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me.
Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Prayer after Communion

Anthem: "Still, Still, Still" Norman Luboff

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you,
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

Candle Lighting

Carol: "Silent Night, Holy Night" (GTG #122) Franz Gruber

**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 host sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God loves 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.**

Scripture: John 1:1-4, 14

Chiming of the Christmas Hour

Carol: "Joy to the World" (GTG #134) Isaac Watts/G.F. Handel

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven 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 sins and sorrows 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.**

Benediction

Postlude: "Hallelujah" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel
(Sam Choate, Piccolo Trumpet)

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