

# Christmas Eve

2020

Welcome and Life Together

Prelude Music: The Service of Worship begins with the music of Christmas.  
*In its power and brilliance may you feel the majesty of God; in its quietness, His peace.*

## ***Baby, What You Goin' to Be?***

NATALIE SLEETH

Baby, lyin' in a manger, slumberin' so sweetly, what you goin' to be? Baby, all the world is watchin', all the world awaits to see. What will you be? Little babe in a stable under the heaven, O what did you come here to say? Little one, did you come to light our way? O look! See the cattle asleep, see the shepherds beside, see the wise-men, they bow unto you! Baby, will you be the master? Will you bring the kingdom too? Alleluia! Baby, hope of all the people, O what did you come here to say? Baby, can you be the savior, come to save the world one day? Baby, lyin' in a manger, will you save the world one day?

## ***Mariä Wiegenlied (Mary's Lullaby)***

MAX RAGER

Colin Gerlach, violin

## ***A Christmas Lullaby***

DAN FORREST

Lullaby, lullaby, rest now my darling, close your eyes, dreaming is nigh. Lullaby, lullaby, angel voices softly singing carols for their newborn King. Lullaby, lullaby, whisper and sigh, lullaby. Silently waiting, all creation greets the Child; Lullaby, Holy Child, fulfill our longing, our foretold salvation bring.

\* Call to Worship

\* Lighting of the Christ Candle

ANDIE GOODRICH

Leader: We have watched; we have waited in hope, for peace, with joy and with love.

Acolyte: Now our redemption draws near! Tonight we light the Christ candle.

Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah.

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...for a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: We gather together in anticipation,

**People:** *pondering the promise of the prophet.*

Leader: We gather together in excitement,

**People:** *singing the carol of the angels.*

Leader: We gather together in song and in silence,

**People:** *welcoming the Savior who is the light of the world.*

**All:** *Let us worship God!*

*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! O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him; O 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, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

## Prayer

## Words from the angel

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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 ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

## Anthem

**Angels' Carol**

JOHN RUTTER

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear? Have you seen the star shining out so brightly as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here? Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven to the humble shepherds who have waited long? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song. He is come in peace in the winter's stillness, like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night; He is come in joy like the sun at morning filling all the world with radiance and with light. He is come in love as the child of Mary; in a simple stable we have seen his birth: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear them sing 'Peace on earth'. He will bring new light to a world in darkness, like a bright star shining in the skies above; He will bring new hope to the waiting nations when he comes to reign in purity and love. Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming; let the heavens answer with the joyful morn: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born'.

## Birth announcement

Luke 2:1-7

JANET ROOT

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Anthem

**Birthdays Carol**

DAVID WILLCOCKS

Rejoice today with one accord, Alleluia, this is the birthday of our Lord. Alleluia. *Gloria in excelsis, Gloria Deo!* Shepherds abiding in the field, to them God's glory was reveal'd. And to the shepherds sore afraid, an angel said, 'Be not dismayed. Tidings of joy to you I bring, Today is born a heav'nly King. And ye shall find in manger laid, The Babe in swaddling clothes arrayed.' A host of angels fill'd the sky, Thus singing praise to God on high. Now join we all the angel throng, and let our voices swell the song: *Gloria in excelsis, Gloria Deo!*

Arrival of shepherds

Luke 2: 8-17

GARY ROOT

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child.

Solo

**O Holy Night**

ADOLPHE ADAM

Johnathan McCann, tenor

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 pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

The Light of the World

John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Meditation

**The Light of Christ**

REV. CRAIG GOODRICH

Anthem

**Go Tell it on the Mountain**

ARR. KEN BURTON

Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and ev'rywhere, 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. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth, rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our Savior's birth. There in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born and brought us God's salvation that blessed birthday morn.

Passing the Light

\*Hymn

**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! 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! 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.*

Christmas Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

\* Hymn

**Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come** (vs. 1, 2, 4)

ANTIOCH

*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.*

*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

**Postlude on 'Mendelssohn'**  
(Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

DAVID WILLCOCKS

***Wishing you a blessed and beautiful Christmas Eve,  
as we celebrate God's love  
and the great gift He gave us  
on the first Christmas.***