

Carmel Presbyterian Church
Service of the Word and Sacrament for Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021 at 9:00 P.M.



Order of Worship

* Please stand, as able.

Congregation voices **Bold** responses.

We Gather in Worship

8:45 PM Prelude – (The congregation is asked to remain quiet during the prelude.)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”, Setting by Lloyd Larson

Margaret Vandegrift, soprano and Angelica Feliciano, soprano

“In the Bleak Midwinter”, Gustav Theodore Holst

Angelica Feliciano, soprano

“Christmas Angels”, Setting by Lloyd Larson

Margaret Vandegrift, soprano and Angelica Feliciano, soprano

“Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion” (From “Messiah”), George F. Handel

Margaret Vandegrift, soprano

Lighting the Advent Wreath – The Keller Family – Bruce, Melissa, Aidan, and Lia

Introduction –

Good evening! On this Christmas Eve we are gathered as God’s people to celebrate again what Christ’s coming means to the world. We join with Christians all over the world who are celebrating tonight.

Christmas is a time of worship—the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder.

Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all people.

Scripture –

Listen for the Word of God from Isaiah, Chapter 9, verse 6:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

Listen for the Word of God from Luke, Chapter 2, verses 10 and 14:

Behold, I bring you good news of a great JOY, which will come to all the people... Glory to God in the highest, and on earth PEACE among all those with whom God is pleased.

Listen for the Word of God from Romans, Chapter 5, verse 5:

HOPE does not disappoint us, because God’s LOVE has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Lighting the Christ Candle –

Tonight, we relight the four advent candles and recall what the good news means... Hope... Peace... Joy... Love.

Jesus Christ is the greatest gift. Jesus makes all these other gifts possible.

So, we light the Christ candle now, as we ponder what his coming means to each one of us.

Call to Worship –

Tonight, old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The gospel is fulfilled.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Anticipation gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Our candles illuminate our story. The Light of the World has come.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

It is a light for all; igniting a flame in the soul and radiating love to the world.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.

**** Processional Hymn No. 41 – “O Come, All Ye Faithful” – (ADESTE FIDELES)***

**** Prayer of Adoration (In unison) –***

Give us, O God, such love and wonder, that with shepherds, and wise magi, and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child, the promised King; and with our gifts worship him, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Listen for God’s Word to Us

The Lights of Christmas

The Light of Hope – Isaiah 35:1-2, 8-10 (p. 623) –

The desert and the dry land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.
They will burst into bloom,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They will receive the glory of Lebanon,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the Lord’s glory,
the splendor of our God....

... A highway will be there.

It will be called The Holy Way.

The unclean won’t travel on it,

but it will be for those walking on that way.

Even fools won’t get lost on it;

no lion will be there,

and no predator will go up on it.

None of these will be there;

only the redeemed will walk on it.

The Lord’s ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing,

with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Happiness and joy will overwhelm them;
grief and groaning will flee away.

***Hymn No. 22 – “Angels from the Realms of Glory – (REGENT SQUARE)**

The Light of Peace –

A Litany of Glad Tidings

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ, reigning with the Creator and Holy Spirit above the cherubim;
worshipped by the seraphim.

Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Blessed are you, born as a little child and laid in a manger.

Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Blessed are you, humble offspring of a human woman, yet truly God.

Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Blessed are you, Sovereign of Glory, graciously coming to dwell among us.

Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Blessed are you, giving us all we possess, yet accepting the gifts of visitors.

Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Blessed are you, our Bread of Life, giving eternal life to our souls.

Let heaven and earth rejoice!

With the angelic host and all the heavenly powers, let us proclaim and celebrate our Savior’s birth.

Let heaven and earth rejoice. Amen.

***Hymn No. 48 – “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” – (ES IST EIN’ ROS’)**

The Light of Joy – Isaiah 9:2-7 (p. 600) –

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

You have made the nation great;

you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,

as those who divide plunder rejoice.

As on the day of Midian, you’ve shattered the yoke that burdened them,

the staff on their shoulders,

and the rod of their oppressor.

Because every boot of the thundering warriors,

and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned, fuel for the fire.

A child is born to us, a son is given to us,

and authority will be on his shoulders.

He will be named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be vast authority and endless peace

for David’s throne and for his kingdom,

establishing and sustaining it

with justice and righteousness

now and forever.

The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.

**Anthem – “Sing Gloria”, Katherine K. Davis
Festival Choir**

*The shepherds sleep among their sheep, All silent they lie,
When clear and strong there comes a song From angels on high.
Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria! Jesus is born!*

*Now hark and hear this word of cheer, And be not afraid.
In humble guise the infant lies, In a manger laid.
Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria! Jesus is born!*

*The shepherds heard the wondrous word The angels did sing,
And travelled then to Bethlehem To worship their King.:
Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria! Jesus is born!*

*We follow them to Bethlehem, Our Saviour to greet.
Our hearts we bring, an offering To lay at his feet.
Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria! Jesus is born!*

The Light of Love – Luke 2:1, 4-16 (p. 54) –

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists.

Since Joseph belonged to David’s house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

***Hymn No. 29 – “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” – (GO TELL IT)**

The Light of Christ – John 1:1-5, 10-14 (p. 86) –

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

The Word was with God in the beginning.
Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.
What came into being
through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn't recognize the light.
The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn't welcome him.
But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,
born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.
The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.
We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

Meditation – "To You Is Born" – Pastor Peter

We Respond to God's Word

Christmas Eve Offering –

***Offertory – "Upon a Calm and Quiet Night", James E. Clemens
Festival Choir***

*Upon a calm and quiet night, while shepherds watched their sheep,
the angel of the Lord revealed the Savior they should seek:
"Raise your voices strong and clear, for the Son of God is here!"
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! Gloria! in excelsis Deo!*

*The Wise Men sought the newborn King; from far-off lands they came.
They gave him gifts and worshiped him to glorify his name:
"Raise your voices strong and clear, for the Son of God is here!"
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Now come, all Christians young and old, give praise to Christ our King!
Join hands and hearts in joy to spread this wondrous news we bring:
"Raise your voices strong and clear, for the Son of God is here!"
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

****Doxology No. 592 – (OLD HUNDREDDTH)***

Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to The Lord's Table –

Communion Prayer –

The Words of Institution and the Distribution of the Bread and Wine

(In-person worshippers are invited to come forward using the center aisle for bread and wine/juice, returning to your seats by the side aisles. An elder will place the bread in your cupped hands for you to partake of the bread; then, please move to receive the “red” wine or “clear” grape juice from a pastor; and partake of the cup, disposing the cup in the container. Live-streaming worshippers may have the elements prepared nearby and partake along with those in the sanctuary. All who are baptized are invited to share in Christ's Table.)

Communion Music – “Of the Father's Love Begotten” – Noel Rawsthorne

Prayer after Communion (In unison.) –

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Service of Candle-Lighting: The Light of the Christ Candle Goes Out into the World –

God's stupendous sign—a child in a manger, a Light given for our darkness. Just when we think that we have understood all, we are surprised again.

We are included—there is room for us in this picture, at this manger, in God's house—there is always room.

God commanded the light out of darkness. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Jesus said,

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won't walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

The Spirit of God is with us—here, among us right now. The true light, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The light of God is given for you—given to you—and by you it is given to others.

Distribution of the Light from the Christ Candle –

(Please hold lit candles upright, tipping unlit candles to receive the flame. For those worshipping with the live-stream, please light carefully a candle near you.)

****Hymn No. 60 – “Silent Night, Holy Night” (STILLE NACHT)***

We Bear and Follow the Word into the World

****Hymn No. 40 – “Joy to the World” (ANTIOCH)***

(Stanzas 1 & 4 only)

***Benediction (Isaiah 9, Luke 2) –**

(Following the Benediction, kindly extinguish your candle and place it in the marked receptacle as you exit the sanctuary.)

A child has been born for us.

God's grace has been given to us.

From a stable in Bethlehem our savior has come. We have seen the glory of the Lord,

Revealed in the face of the Christ child. We can hardly contain our amazement.

Tell the world. Treasure the story. Ponder it in your heart.

We will Glorify and praise God, for all we have heard and seen!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ has come!

Amen!

Postlude – “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”, Wilbur Held

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Participants in the Service

Peter Sulyok, *Transitional Senior Pastor*

Ashley B. Rossi, *Associate Pastor*

Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, *Director of Music*

The Carmel Presbyterian Church Festival Choir

Carmel Presbyterian Church

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215-887-1074

Carmel's New Web Site

www.presbycarmel.org

O Come, All Ye Faithful

41

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

*Alternate harmonization and descant for stanza 3, 42

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7

Stanzas 1-3, James Montgomery, 1816, 1825

Stanza 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857

Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2. Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, Bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4. All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

Ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry Now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, Yon-der shines the in - fant light:
 Seek the great de - sire of na - tions; Ye have seen His na - tal star:
 Ev - er-more your voic - es rais - ing To the e - ter - nal Three in One:

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new - born King!

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

29

GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work III, 1940

Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925)

Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the earth,
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,

Be - hold through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us, sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

D.C.

Silent Night, Holy Night

60

STILLE NACHT Irregular

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Trans. John Freeman Young, 1863

Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

B \flat F B \flat E \flat

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright, Round you
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight, Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won-drous star, lend thy light; With the

B \flat E \flat B \flat

vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heaven-ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from Thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

F B \flat F B \flat

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht
 Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
 Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh',
 Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh'!

2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Hirten erst kundgemacht
 Durch der Engel Alleluja,
 Tönt est laut von fern und nah:
 Christ der Retter ist da,
 Christ der Retter ist da!

3. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
 Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
 Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund':
 Christ, in deiner Geburt,
 Christ, in deiner Geburt!

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 And heaven and na - ture sing,

And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,