

**Carmel Presbyterian Church**  
**First Sunday After Christmas**  
**December 26, 2021**  
**10:00 AM**

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Prelude – “In the Bleak Midwinter” Noel Rawsthorne**

**\* Call to Worship**

We who knelt in the stable—

**Let us come and kneel in the temple!**

Let our hearts give thanks, and our hands rejoice!

**Let our spirits sing, and our bodies dance!**

O children, enter the house of the Lord!

**Enter God's presence, and be reborn!**

**\* Hymn #28 – “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (IN DULCI JUBILO)**

**Call to Confession**

Today we celebrate that Jesus, our Lord, came to earth as a human, just like us but without sin. He came so that we who sin may be freed from sin. With the peace that comes from knowing Jesus came, let us confess our sins and be forgiven.

**Prayer of Confession**

**When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us, Lord. When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Father. When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching, let your grace consume us, O God. When the wars around us are of no concern, forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer. When our caring is not extended to action, move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters. We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other. We are but dust without your love. Remove all barriers that divide us, and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

God has caused light to shine in our hearts, the light that is knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**\* Gloria Patri (Hymn No. 567) – “Glory to the Father”<sup>1</sup> — (Gloria Patri)**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**\* Passing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

**Children's Message – Pastor Ashley**

**Prayer for Illumination**

*Let us pray,*

**God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.**

**First Testament Reading –**

*The first reading is taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel, beginning with the 18<sup>th</sup> verse. Listen as I read God's Word:*

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\* Hymn #40 – "Joy to the World!" (ANTIOCH)**

**Epistle Reading –**

*Our second reading is taken from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Colossians, beginning with the 12<sup>th</sup> verse. Listen as I read God's Word:*

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading –**

*The gospel reading is taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Luke, beginning with verse 41. Listen as I read God's Word:*

<sup>41</sup>Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and

friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon – Pastor Ashley**

**\* Hymn #36 – "In the Bleak Midwinter" (CRANHAM)**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and The Lord's Prayer (Using 'debts' & 'debtors') –**

**Invitation to the Offering**

*(Our hearts are open, and our ministries are continuing seven days a week. Your contribution or pledge payment sustains our presence as the church to the community—both local and global. Please place your offering in the collection plate at the back of the sanctuary, give online, or mail your offering envelope to the church office.)*

**Offertory –**

**"The Huron Carol"**

(Hymn 61)

David Campbell, soloist

**arr. Mark Hayes**

French Carol, 16th c.

*"Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim and wandering hunters heard the hymn:  
"Jesus, your King, is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria."*

*Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found,  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped His beauty 'round;  
but as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high,  
"Jesus, your King, is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria."*

*The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.  
"Jesus, your King, is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria."*

*O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,  
the Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant Boy who brings you beauty peace and joy.*

*"Jesus, your King, is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!"*

**\* Doxology No 592 – “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (DOXOLOGY)**

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

*Let us pray:*

**God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy.**

**Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen.**

**\* Hymn - (insert) – “He Came Down” (HE CAME DOWN)**

**From the *Glory to God Hymnal***

**\* Charge and Benediction**

***Chimes – (You may sit in silent, reflective prayer as the worship leaders recess.)***

***Postlude – “Good Christian Friends Rejoice” Wilbur Held***

*Copyright Permissions:*

*All music reprinted and streamed under One License.net- License number 735006-A.*

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE CORDIALLY WELCOME** those who are visiting today. **We are grateful** for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission and programs; we are happy to share our ministry with you. We’d like to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to a person nearby and be sure to join us downstairs in Carmel Hall for refreshments and conversation after worship! We hope your worship experience is meaningful and you will join with us again. Sign our guest book at the sanctuary entrance (or share your email/contact information in the offering plate for future worship and activities). We invite you to speak with a Pastor if you are interested in membership. A **Virtual Fellowship Time** is also possible on Zoom. And, restrooms are located down the long hallway just past the Church Office in the Education Building. Welcome!

**THE FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY** this morning offer Glory to God and witness to the beauty of creation.

**SPEND SOME TIME WITH CARMEL’S NEW AND GREATLY IMPROVED WEBSITE!** Explore the wealth of information at [www.presbycarmel.org](http://www.presbycarmel.org). Photos of our recent “Candlelight Carol Service” are now up on the Carmel Web! Easily find links for the current livestream worship, past services, the daily lectionary, or to send a prayer request or make a financial donation—and find out the latest on the Carmel Calendar. Clicking on the upper circular church photo will always bring you back to the Home Page.

**YOUR STEWARDSHIP GIVING ENVELOPES ARE IN THE FLOYER READY FOR PICK UP!** Please pickup your numbered **Stewardship Giving Envelopes** in the church foyer arranged alphabetically. If you need a yearly **Giving/Pledge Card**, they may be picked up near the **Offering Plate** as you enter the sanctuary. Please drop in the plate or return to the Church Office. Additional yearly giving/pledge cards are available in the Church Office. Thank you for your generosity in caring for others through your church family!

**THANKS TO THE THREE WEEKENDS OF VOLUNTEERS FOR SANCTUARY DECORATING**—Thanks to many folks who helped Carmel prepare for Jesus’ arrival by progressively decorating the sanctuary for Advent: wreaths and swags; then, trees and lights; and finally, candelabras and poinsettias! At Carmel, the Christmas spirit is all around us.

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO CHILDREN’S WORSHIP IN CARMEL HALL TODAY.** Children’s Worship will resume on Sunday, January 2, 2021.

**CARMEL IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE FOR THE YOUNG MEMBERS** of our congregation by offering **Nursery Care and Children’s Worship** (third grade and below) during the Sunday 10:00 am worship service. They are being led by two of our committed and dedicated volunteers, **Marleen Heintz for Nursery Care and Melissa MacFarland for Children’s Worship**. At this time, we request that if you desire nursery care for your child during Sunday worship, **please call the Church Office by Friday noon**, so that the nursery is staffed. Children’s Worship will meet in Carmel Hall for larger spacing and does not require reserving ahead. Children from Grades K-3 leave the Sanctuary after the **Children’s Message**. We welcome our young families, either in person or in virtual worship. Any questions may be addressed to Janet Simon, Christian Education Committee chair; Marleen or Melissa.

**ADULT SUNDAY MORNING GROUP STUDY LED BY THE SENIOR PASTOR** Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45 am, Fellowship Lounge will take a “pause” during Advent and Christmas and resumes in January. Talk with Pastor Peter about what you would like to take up for study and if you’d like to meet during the week. The group is considering adding a new class time during the week to involve those who are unable to make the Sunday morning class.

**CHILDREN’S WORSHIP SUPPLIES, HEARING DEVICES, LARGE PRINT BIBLES and ORDERS OF SERVICE** are available from the Ushers.

**WORSHIPING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19** – All are requested to wear masks at all times and practice social distancing at your and other’s comfort levels during worship and when inside the church facilities

**SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH WORSHIP – EACH SUNDAY WE HAVE** several spots you can assist. We are not all we can be without you sharing your gifts as a volunteer! Speak with a pastor or sign-up on-line here: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship>

**JOIN US EACH SUNDAY IN WORSHIP; CELEBRATE COMMUNION THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH!** **Live Streaming Worship** continues on YouTube, via Zoom on the phone and on Zoom for virtual fellowship following worship for those unable to attend in-person worship due to health comfort levels or travel situations. See below!

---

***Participating in Worship this Morning***

*Peter Sulyok, Transitional Senior Pastor*

*Ashley B. Rossi, Associate Pastor*

*Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music*

*Nancy Pinkowicz, Worship Leader*

*Bob and Cindy Gerhard, Greeter/Ushers*

*Ruth Kucera and Melissa Keller, Shepherds  
Walt Newman, Chancel Preparation and Emergency Procedure (CPEP) Member  
Gary Moll, Stefanie O’Gara, and Jay Raulinaitis, Live-Streaming Operators*

***Welcome to Sunday Morning Worship (Also, live streamed at 10:00 am)***

*YouTube (Carmel Presbyterian Church Glenside) at*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJljlDvsRw>

***Those without Internet access may phone in via the Zoom phone link:***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409> and Meeting ID: 842 851 1409

***“Virtual Fellowship Time” may be accessed on Zoom only after the service ends.***

***For those Participating and Facilitating in Worship***

*By attending in-person worship at Carmel Presbyterian Church you acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and variants and voluntarily assume the risk that you and your family may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19. You also acknowledge that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 and its variants may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of yourself and/or others, including, but not limited to, church employees, contractors, volunteers, members, and participants and their families. You agree to assume all the foregoing risks, waive liability against Carmel Presbyterian Church and church employees, contractors, volunteers, members, and participants and their families, and accept sole responsibility for any illness, injury, disability, or death to you or your family, including all claims that may arise resulting from any of these.*

***Carmel Presbyterian Church***

*100 Edge Hill Road*

*Glenside, PA 19038*

*215-887-1074*

[www.presbycarmel.org](http://www.presbycarmel.org)

---

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.8.5.5

Medieval Latin

Trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853; alt.

German folk tune, 14th century

Harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953

1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;  
 2. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;  
 3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say:      Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 Now ye hear of end - less bliss:      Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 Now ye need not fear the grave:      Je - sus Christ was born to save!

Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now.  
 He hath o - pened heav - en's door, And we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all To gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!      Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this!      Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save!      Christ was born to save!

# Glory to the Father

*Gloria Patri*

567

John Weaver, 1978

\*  
 Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the

\*  
 Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it: as it was in the be - gin-ning, is

now, and will be for ev - er. A - men. A - men. A - men.

\*May be sung as a canon.

♩=58-63



# 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,

## In the Bleak Midwinter

36

CRANHAM Irregular

Christina Rossetti, c. 1872; alt.

Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,  
 2. Our God, heaven can - not hold Him, Nor earth sus - tain;  
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels, May have gath - ered there,  
 4. What can I give Him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;  
 Heaven and earth shall flee a - way When He comes to reign:  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,  
 In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 But His moth - er on - ly, In her maid - en bliss,  
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.  
 The Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 Wor - shiped the be - lov - ed With a kiss.  
 Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

# He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

*Leader:* Why did he come?

*Additional stanzas:*

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

---