



Prelude *A Christmas Celebration* arr. Don Phillips

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* arr. Ronn Cummings
The Chancel Choir with the Palms Choral Interns

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. Sing out for joy, for soon he is born, behold! The child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever. To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing; his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness. The thunder of his anthem rolls to shatter all hatred and violence. In darkest night his coming shall be, when all is the world is despairing, as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder. Rejoice! Rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Scremin Family (8:30)
Palms Youth (11:00)

Response (#92) *While We Are Waiting, Come*
While we are waiting, come. While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel. While we are waiting, come.

Advent Prayer (Unison)
Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the true meaning of peace. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. John Rutter

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

CHORUS:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

CHORUS

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

CHORUS

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

CHORUS

O come, thou key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

CHORUS

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. (...**a moment for silent confession...**) Amen.

Kyrie (#121)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(verse 4)

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response (#132)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

(verse 3)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The First Lesson

Waiting for the Comfort and the Glory of God

Isaiah 40: 1 - 5

Will You Be Ready?

Mark Patterson

The Youth Choir

Solos: Emilia Viega (8:30) | Ellery Anderson (11:00)

People who walk in darkness have seen a great light. The light will shine upon them; may it shine brightly tonight. Will you be ready for the light, ready for the light to shine upon you? Will you be watching? Will you be listening? Will you hear the angels sing? Will you be waiting? Will you be searching for a Savior and a King? People keep watching, true light is coming, look for a bright star in the east. Look for the Christ Child, born in a manger, there you will find the Prince of Peace.

Will you be ready?

The Second Lesson

Waiting for the Peace of the Kingdom

Isaiah 2: 1 - 4

Teach Us to Love

Mark Patterson

Teach us to love as you have loved. Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is never boastful or proud. Love is slow to anger and keeps no list of wrongs. Love always trusts, always hopes and protects. Love rejoices in the truth and love never fails.

If I speak in tongues of men and angels but have not love, if I know all mystery, and have the gift of prophecy, but have not love, if I give all I possess, but have not love, I gain nothing. Lord, teach us to love.

The Third Lesson

We Announce the Good News

Isaiah 52: 7 - 10

How Lovely Are the Messengers

Felix Mendelssohn

from the oratorio *St. Paul*

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.

To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

The Fourth Lesson

We Keep Alert and Awake

Mark 13: 28 - 37

Welcome All Wonders

Richard Dirksen

Katelyn Brown, soprano

Welcome all wonders in one sight! Eternity shut in a span. Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth and God in man. That He, the old Eternal Word, should be a child and weep. Each of us his lamb will bring, each his pair of silver doves, till burnt at last in fire of thy fair eyes, ourselves become our own best sacrifice. Welcome all wonders in one sight!

Invitation to Offering

The Offertory

Where Are You Christmas?

James Horner, Will Jennings,
& Mariah Carey

Destiny Guerra, vocalist

Where are you, Christmas? Why can't I find you? Why have you gone away? Where is the laughter you used to bring me?
Why can't I hear the music play? My world is changing. I'm rearranging. Does that mean Christmas changes too?
Where are you, Christmas? Do you remember the one you used to know? I'm not the same one. See what's the time done.
Is that why you have let me go? Christmas is here, everywhere, if you care. If there is love in your heart and your mind,
you will feel like Christmas all the time. I feel you, Christmas! I know I found you. You never fade away.
The joy of Christmas stays here inside us, fills each and every heart with love.

The Fifth Lesson

The Announcement to Mary

Luke 1: 26-38

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

text by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among brothers,
to make music from the heart.

The Sixth Lesson

Jesus Comes and the Shepherds Hear

Luke 2: 1 - 14

The First Nowell

arr. Mack Wilberg

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their
sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel. They looked up and saw a star shining
in the east beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Then let us all
with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord that hath made heaven and earth of nought
and with his blood mankind hath bought. Nowell.

The Seventh Lesson

The Response of the Shepherds and Us

Luke 2: 15 - 20

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

John Rutter

Les Roettges, flute & piccolo

Going through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem. Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way
to Bethlehem. Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for Christ the newborn King is come to bring
us peace on earth and he's cradled there at Bethlehem." Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to
Bethlehem, who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem? "None may hear my pipes on these
hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem; but a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem." Hovered
over the manger where the babe was lying cradled in the arms of his mother Mary, sleeping now at Bethlehem. "May I
come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem? Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle, is
it far to Bethlehem? Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King is born
this night in lowly stable yonder, born for you at Bethlehem."

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. David Willcocks

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:

Lo! Star-led chieftans, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child bring our hearts oblations:

REFRAIN

O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

REFRAIN

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks,
Draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

REFRAIN

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

REFRAIN

REFRAIN

Blessing

Rev. Bryant Anderson

The Choral Benediction

This Christmastide

Donald Fraser

Solos: Sage Kruse (8:30) | Harmony Toma (11:00)

Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old. Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.

Holly, ivy, mistletoe, and the gently fallen snow. Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.

From a simple ox's stall came the greatest gift of all. Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.

Children sing of hope and joy at the birth of one small boy. Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.

Let the bells ring loud and clear, ring out now for all to hear! Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.

Trumpets sound and voices raise in an endless stream of praise! Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide.

Green and silver, red and gold and a story born of old: Peace and love and hope abide this Christmastide.

Postlude

Joy to the World!

arr. John Rutter

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room.
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n 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.

Lesson Readers David Messerlie, Pam Chally, Linda Scaz, Rona Burgin, Sally Deming, Suneeta Chanan-Khan, David Stang, Bill Wildey, Dana Riley, Jimmy Steele

Vocalist **Destiny Guerra** studied percussion and voice at University of North Florida and currently teaches elementary music in Orlando. She spent the past two summers touring with Festival Singers of Florida throughout China and Africa. You can also find her with ukulele in-hand on YouTube, where she sports red glasses and sings your favorite songs every week. Destiny considers herself a Jacksonville native and always looks forward to Lessons and Carols at Palms to kick-off her Christmas season.

Welcome Musicians: Piotr Szewczyk, concertmaster; Ann Hertler, Simon Shiao, Ingang Han, Patrice Evans, Andrew Bruck, Megan Rios, violin; Susan Pardue, Jorge Pena, viola; Laurie Casseday, Jim Kin Pena, cello; Kevin Casseday, bass; Les Roettges, flute; Eric Olson, oboe; Michael Harper, Randall Tinnin, trumpet; Aaron Brask, Kate Caliendo, horn; Linda Schlipf, harp; Dale Caswell, electric bass; Destiny Guerra, percussion; Mike Taylor, timpani. Cathy Fortson, organ & piano; Dr. Ronn Cummings, conductor.

Christmas Eve Services at Palms:

5:00 pm - Children & Families

7:00 & 9:00 p.m. - Candlelight service w/ choir & Jacksonville Symphony (nursery provided)

11:00 p.m. - communion candlelight with the Jacksonville Symphony

We hope you will join us!

Let us know you're here!

Please take a brief moment to let us know that you have joined us for worship today. Pull out your phone and visit palmschurch.org and click "Worship Attendance." This simple form will help keep our church family connected.

Palms Presbyterian Church

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