



CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulders and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” -Isaiah 9:6

December 24, 2022

11:00 p.m.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

PRELUDE

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
Zorana Randjelovic-Flores, Piano

arr. Dan Forrest, Jr.
Holst

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger,

People: Who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says, “Your God reigns!”

Pastor: Rejoice, for the light that enlightens everyone has come to the world;

People: We have seen his glory – the glory of a parent’s only son – full of grace and truth. Alleluia!

* CAROL OF PRAISE

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!*

*And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Pastor: Even on this day of celebration, let us come before the Holy One of Israel confessing our sins with contrite hearts, so that we may not deceive ourselves, but instead know the truth of our forgiveness.

All: Almighty God, we confess that our hearts have not been open to all that you have revealed to us in the nativity of your Son. You sent Christ to be born as a helpless child, and yet we have not attended to the suffering of children. You chose humble Mary to be mother of our Lord Jesus, and yet we have not attended to the struggles of women. The holy family could find no room in Bethlehem but a stable, and yet we have not attended to the cry of the homeless. You announced your birth to lowly shepherds, yet we ignore those who tend to our farms and fields. Forgive our lack of attention, and free us for joyful compassion, that we may know Christ in serving others. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Silence

Pastor: Break forth into singing, for the Lord has redeemed you. See the salvation of God; find comfort in God’s strong arms.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rebecca Parker & Beth Lindley

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

All: Mighty God, you have sent us your Son, in whom we find our hope, who teaches us love, who gives us joy, and who rules with peace. In this baby, we have seen the Christ and his kingdom break the oppressive powers of this world. May the light of your kingdom shine from this time onward and forevermore. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Jésus de Nazareth”

Gounod

Hannah Ludwig

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray for the life of the world, saying:
O Christ our light,

People: hear our prayer.

Silence

Pastor: We pray for the church ...

With Mary, help us to treasure and ponder the gift that has been given to us, a gift of good news and great joy for all.

O Christ our light,

People: hear our prayer.

Silence

Pastor: We pray for the world ...

With the prophets, help us to proclaim the promise of your peace for all nations and your justice for all people.

O Christ our light,

People: hear our prayer.

Silence

Pastor: We pray for this community ...

With the shepherds, help us to keep watch over those entrusted to our care and all who need protection this night.

O Christ our light,

People: hear our prayer.

Silence

Pastor: We pray for loves ones ...

With the angels, help us to offer signs of hope, comfort, and joy for all who live in fear.

O Christ our light,

People: hear our prayer.

Silence

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world, help us to bear witness to your light so that all may believe and have life in you; in your holy name we pray the prayer you taught us, saying:

All: 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.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY
Told In Carols and Scripture
from the Contemporary English Version

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O, Holy Night”
Hannah Ludwig

arr. Hayes

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-5, 9-14

SILENT REFLECTION

CAROL

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”*

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a

SILENT REFLECTION

CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.*

*O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.*

*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!*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

SILENT REFLECTION

CAROL

“Love Has Come”

*Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14

SILENT REFLECTION

CAROL

“What Child Is This”

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-20

SILENT REFLECTION

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Gesu Bambino”
Hannah Ludwig

Yon

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S TABLE

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

***Wherever you are, in the Sanctuary or at home,
you are invited to partake of the bread and the cup.***

***If you are worshiping in person, please come down the center aisle to receive
the communion elements; partake and return to your seat using the side aisles.
Ushers will bring communion to the seats of those who cannot come forward.***

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

SPREADING THE LIGHT

***Jesus is the light of the world. As His followers, we are called to receive His light
and carry Him into the darkness of today.***

Watch the light grow as each of us receives the light of Christ.

CAROL

“Silent Night”

*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.*

*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.*

BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATION LEAVES IN SILENCE

* Please stand if you are able.

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CHRISTMAS EVE 2022

The Lord's Supper and Its Symbolism

The Lord's Supper has special significance as it commemorates the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples until he ate with them in the Kingdom of God (Luke 22:16). Bread was and is a common staple which Jesus used as a symbol for his body, broken into pieces to demonstrate giving of himself to others.

Wine was also a common staple in the first century and its consumption was part of everyday life. When Jesus shares the cup, it is a symbol of his blood shed and the sacrifice of his life for all humanity.

The sharing of this very common meal was and is a way of enjoying an ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ. "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Instructions for Lighting Your Candle

As we reflect upon the light of God's love which is revealed to us in the birth of Jesus Christ, we light candles to remind us that God's love brings light in the darkness. Tonight, just prior to singing "Silent Night," all of the lights in the Sanctuary will be turned off.

When Pastor Keith and Pastor Ivan turn on their candles, you are invited to turn on your candle using the switch at the bottom symbolizing how the light of God's love comes into the world. Please turn off your candle following the benediction and place it in a basket in the Narthex as you exit.

Silent Night, Holy Night

This Christmas hymn was originally written by Joseph Mohr for a Christmas festival at St. Nicholas Church, Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria. The story is told that the organ was not functioning the day of the service and Mohr decided to write a new hymn that would not require organ accompaniment. He took it to his friend, Franz Xaver Gruber, and asked him to write a suitable tune. The two sang the new hymn as Gruber accompanied on the guitar. The village choir joined in, repeating the last line of each stanza in four-part harmony. As we sing this hymn tonight, may we lift our voices in prayerful praise with those who have been singing this hymn since 1831.

Special Thanks

We extend our gratitude to our excellent musicians, actors, and audio/visual technicians for their dedication and hard work and for sharing their gifts with us during the season of Advent and Christmas. We especially thank pianist Zorana Randjelovic-Flores, and vocalist Hannah Ludwig as they lead us in worship tonight.

Zorana Randjelovic-Flores is an accomplished pianist, formerly serving Carmichael Presbyterian Church as Sanctuary Choir accompanist and director of the Celebration Singers. In addition to playing throughout the Sacramento area, Zorana also teaches piano.

Hannah Ludwig, mezzo-soprano, is originally from Sacramento and currently resides in Philadelphia, PA. As a member of Carmichael Presbyterian Church, she grew up as a part of CPC's Contemporary Music Team before pursuing her studies in vocal performance and opera at The University of the Pacific and the Academy of Vocal Arts.

Please Join Us for Worship

If you do not already have a church home, we invite you to call Carmichael Presbyterian your church home. ALL are welcome to worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in-person or online via YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/c/carmichaelpres>).