



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

5:00 p.m.

***As you enter the Sanctuary, all children are encouraged to
choose a figure from the nativity scene in the narthex.***

***At the designated times during the service, children may place their figures in the Bethlehem
village at the front of the church.***

PRELUDE

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Rick Schlosser, Organ

setting by John A. Behnke
John Francis Wade

INTROIT

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Sanctuary Choir

Traditional

PASTORAL WELCOME

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy.

People: To us is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Pastor: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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!
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!
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!

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Pastor: In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing light to us all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

All: It's Christmas Eve again, God. We're barely ready for it. We are a whirlwind of activity, and in the middle of all of it we sometimes miss what it is all about: you coming to be with us. As we sing our carols and hear the story of your birth, help us understand in new ways your promises of hope, salvation, and love. Forgive us when we forget the truth of this night. Rock us from our complacency, that we may ponder in our hearts what all this means for the world and for us.

Silence

Pastor: God's love knows no boundaries. Love comes down at Christmas - a love so deep and so profound that nothing will ever be the same again. Love has come for us, to heal, forgive, and make us whole.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Christmas Story

Told in the Reading of Scripture and the Singing of Carols

LESSON ONE

Isaiah 9:2-6

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."

LESSON TWO

Micah 5:2-5a

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
(The animals are placed in the manger, except the camel and donkey.)

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!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Leslie/Driffill Family

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.

CAROL

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"
(Mary, Joseph, and the donkey are placed.)

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.
Angels sang about His birth, wisemen sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around Him
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.
Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

ANTHEM

"Echo Carol"
Sanctuary Choir

Hugh Livingston, Jr.

*While by our sleeping flocks we lay, there came an angel bright as day: Awake with joy!
Praise ye the Lord on high with joy!
Spake then the angel, "news I bring of Israel's long expected King!" Great be your joy!
Praise ye the Lord on high with joy!
Grace, truth, and right God's rule attend; God's kingdom knows no earthly end! Great be your joy!
Praise ye the Lord on high with joy!
Peace upon earth, good will toward all; let the world shout the loud amen! Come share our joy!
Praise ye the Lord on high with joy!*

LESSON THREE

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL

"Away in a Manger"
(Jesus, the Christmas Star and other stars are placed.)

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: God of glory, by your grace a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders and in his name we pray.

Wonderful Counselor,

People: we pray for wisdom for the world's leaders that they may use their power to lift burdens and break the bonds of oppression.

Silence

Pastor: Mighty God,

People: we pray for the church of Jesus Christ our Lord, that you will multiply and increase our joy as we share in the harvest you have gathered.

Silence

Pastor: Everlasting Father,

People: we pray for families, friends, and loved ones, that those who now walk in deep darkness may see the great light of your saving love.

Silence

Pastor: Prince of Peace,

People: we pray for an end to violence and warfare, that your authority may continue to grow until there is endless peace in every land.

Silence

Pastor: Lord of hosts, establish your holy realm with justice and righteousness, from this time on and forevermore and hear us as we pray together the prayer Christ taught us,

People: 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.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"The Snow Lay on the Ground"

arr. Alice Jordan
French Carol *Venite Adoremus*

JOYFUL GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

LESSON FOUR

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL

**"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks "
(Angels and shepherds are placed.)**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind:

"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.

"To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid."

LESSON FIVE

Luke 2:15-20

ANTHEM

"Let Us Go to Bethlehem/Vamos Todos a Belen"

arr. Roy Ringwald

Sanctuary Choir

*Let us go to Bethlehem, full of love and gladness; adoration we must bring to the newborn King!
Night is bright as morning, Hark an angel sings! From the shining heavens, tidings glad he brings!*

*Let us go to Bethlehem, full of love and gladness; adoration we must bring to the newborn King!
Happy be the shepherds, chosen from all the earth, God's own Word to witness at the holy birth!*

*Let us go to Bethlehem, full of love and gladness; adoration we must bring to the newborn King!
From the shining heavens, tidings glad he brings!*

*Vamos todos a Belen con amor y gozo! Adoremus al Señor nuestro Redentor
Happy be the shepherds, chosen from all the earth, God's own Word to witness at the holy birth!
Vamos todos a Belen con amor y gozo! Adoration we must bring to the newborn King!*

LESSON SIX

Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL

**"We Three Kings of Orient Are"
(The kings and camels are placed.)**

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (Refrain)

Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God Most High. (Refrain)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

LITANY FOR LIGHTING CANDLES

Pastor: In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.

People: Let there be light.

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt among us. And the Word was the light of all peoples.

People: Let there be light.

Pastor: We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.

People: Let there be light.

Pastor: We need to know that we are part of something greater than the flicker of our own little candles. We long to be assured that the light of Christ is with us even in the moment.

People: Let there be light.

Pastor: So we light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shine through the babe born in Bethlehem who became the Redeemer of us all.

People: Let there be light.

Pastor: May we be bold to share the love of God with a world longing for light and hope, purpose, and love. May our actions and generosity shine bright.

People: Let there be 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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Childcare for children up to age 4 is available in Room 102.

CHRISTMAS EVE 2022

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 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 CPC's Director of Music Keith Atwater, Organist Rick Schlosser, and the Sanctuary Choir as they lead us in singing and praise this evening.

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>).

