



## CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**December 24, 2023**

**Livestream & In-Person**

**10:00 a.m.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

\* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE

**"Camel Stomp (Three Wise Men Get Down)"**

John Henry Hopkins  
arr. Christopher Norton

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Terry Sakuda

Leader: We wait to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child,

**People: We wait for Christ to enter our lives in a new way.**

Leader: We watch for the signs of God's reign in our world.

**People: We are called to build up the reign of Christ on earth.**

Leader: We wonder at God's work in our world,

**People: And wonder what God will do next.**

Turn your ear to heaven and hear the noise inside  
The sound of angels' awe, the sound of angels' songs  
And all this for a king; we could join and sing all to Christ the King

How constant, how divine this song of ours will rise  
O, how constant, how divine this song of ours will rise, will rise

O praise Him, O praise Him,  
He is holy, He is holy  
O praise Him, O praise Him,  
He is holy, He is holy

Turn your gaze to heaven and raise a joyous noise  
The sound of salvation come, the sound of rescued ones  
And all this for a king; Angels join to sing all for Christ our King

O praise Him, O praise Him,  
He is holy, He is holy  
O praise Him, O praise Him,  
He is holy, He is holy

How infinite and sweet, this love so rescuing  
O how infinitely sweet, this great love that has redeemed

As one, we sing  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
He is holy, He is holy.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
He is holy, He is holy.  
O praise Him, O praise Him,  
He is holy, He is holy

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Terry Sakuda

Leader: On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, let us speak together what has kept us from loving God, loving each other, and loving ourselves.

**All: Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus our Christ. You continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and when our eyes are opened, our hearts often remain closed. Our hands are busy even as our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, and that our hearts are stirred to compassion and service.**

***Silence***

Leader: What has come into being through Christ is life, and the life is the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. The light lives in each of us. Go, share the Light of the World, for the Light of the World is Christ the Lord. Amen.

Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the  
Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin-ning, is  
now, and e - ver shall be, world with - out  
end. A - men, A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a four-part vocal setting of the Gloria Patri. It is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Michael & Savannah Lombardo

ADVENT PRAYER

**All:** Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of love this week, help us to become the signs of love that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven's love. Amen.

ANTHEM

"Shepherd's Rocking Carol"

Czech Carol arr. Roberta Black

Sanctuary Choir

Linda Franke, handbells; Susan Herman, flute

*Gently slumber little one, holy one, Mary's baby, Mary's son.  
Thick and warm the fur we bring you, soft the lullabies we sing you.  
Your bright star shines from above, Lord of peace and Lord of love.*

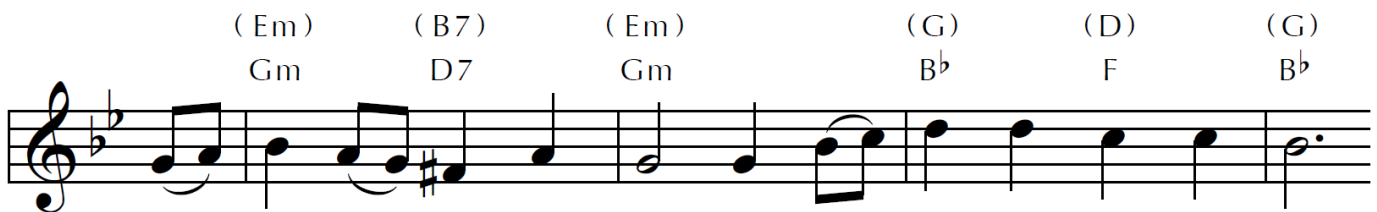
*Gently slumber little one, holy one, Mary's baby, Mary's son.  
We keep watch, will not forsake you, as sweet sleep will overtake you.  
Your bright star shines from above, Lord of peace and Lord of love.*

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

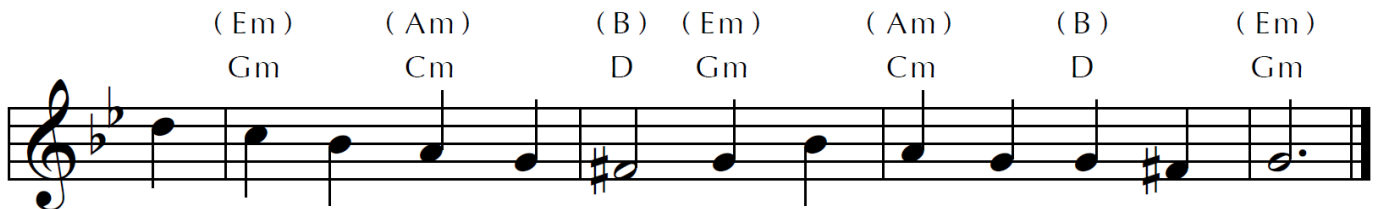
*(Children are invited to the front of the church. Afterwards, children 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to Sunday School in Room 207.)*



1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga - briel came.  
 2 "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God the Lord of all,  
 3 But Mar - y was most trou - bled to hear the an - gel's word.  
 4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.  
 5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."  
 6 As Mar - y heard the an - gel, she won - dered at his words.



"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;  
 who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;  
 What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou - bled her to hear,  
 His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off - spring from on high.  
 The an - gel an - swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High  
 "Be - hold, I am your hand - maid," she said un - to her God.



good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."  
 you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"  
 to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou - bled her to hear.  
 And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."  
 will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."  
 "So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

SERMON

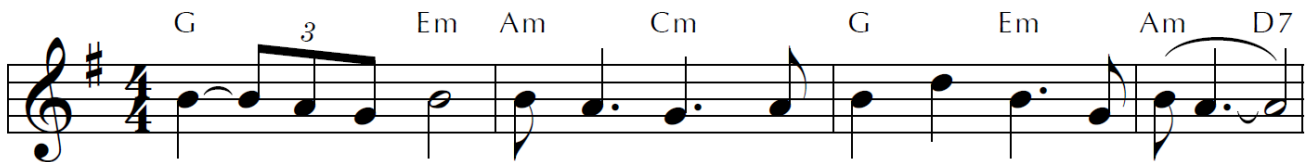
**Theotokos, God-Bearer**

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

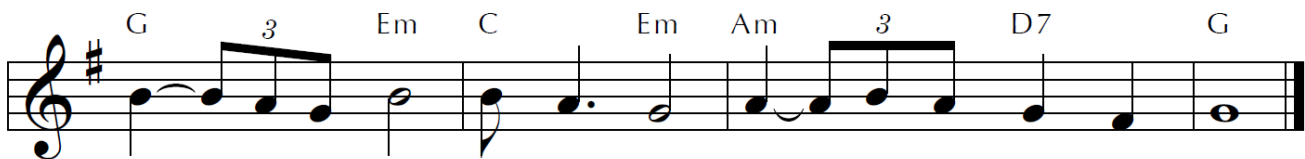
\* HYMN

**"Born in the Night, Mary's Child"**

No. 158  
Glory to God



1 Born in the night, Mar-y's Child, a long way from your home;  
 2 Clear shin-ing light, Mar-y's Child, your face lights up our way;  
 3 Truth of our life, Mar-y's Child, you tell us God is good;  
 4 Hope of the world, Mar-y's Child, you're com-ing soon to reign;



com - ing in need, Mar - y's Child, born in a bor - rowed room.  
 Light of the world, Mar - y's Child, dawn on our dark - ened day.  
 yes, it is true, Mar - y's Child, shown on your cross of wood.  
 King of the earth, Mar - y's Child, walk in our streets a - gain.

OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

**"Carol of the Bells"**

Traditional Ukranian Carol  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Mission Bells

Rick Schlosser, Interim Director

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Savior God,

The season of Advent has led us to prepare our lives and hearts for the birth of your son, but we question the readiness of ourselves and our world. We know well what the poet Madeleine L'Engle writes: "This is no time for a child to be born with the earth betrayed by war and hate."

Yet, you, O God, risk being born in a world such as this. You risk taking on flesh that is fragile, vulnerable and new. Oh, wonder of wonders and joy of joys! Everlasting God, your promised presence is a stark reminder of hope.

We pray for hope and an end to the warring madness, for the people of Israel and Gaza, for the suffering in Ukraine, for the humanitarian crisis in the Congo, and for an end to terrorism across the globe. We pray for innocents trapped under falling bombs. We pray for peaceful, diplomatic solutions to age-old conflicts. May your kingdom come, Savior of the nations, and your will be done. Gracious God, bind us together in faith and service. Enlighten us to the needs and the needy in our communities. Organize us for action to solve systemic problems. Help us make room in our communities for weary travelers, people like Mary and Joseph, in need of a safe place to stay. You've given us abundant resources. Help us to share what we have, extend the table of fellowship, and make room for those who long to belong.

God of compassion, bless us and those we love. Heal those suffering from the illnesses of winter. Strengthen those undergoing chemotherapy, radiation or other painful treatments. Comfort those who have recently lost loved ones, those mourning empty seats at holiday tables. Renew those needing respite, grant them the blessing of holiday sabbath. As you reach out to us through Jesus Christ, help us reach out to those who suffer and struggle.

God whose Word we trust and whose Spirit enables us to pray, accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose for our world. Finally, hear us as we pray together the prayer Christ taught us,

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*(If you would like to privately share a concern, thanksgiving, or request for healing, please come to the Stephen Ministry banner on the east wall of the Sanctuary immediately following the service for individual prayer with a Stephen Minister.)*

**“Canticle of the Turning”**  
**(My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout)**



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

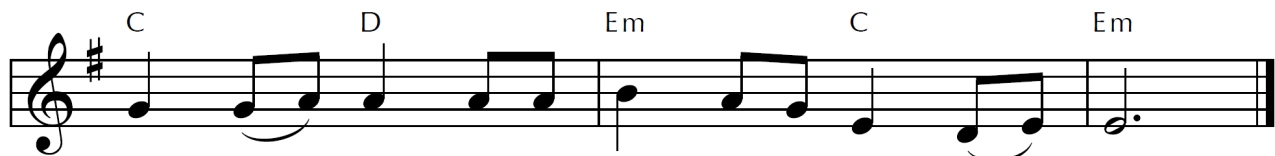
*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Call to Worship and Assurance of Pardon written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Rev-o-lution Resources, <http://rev-o-lution.org>, © 2023.  
Prayer of Confession adapted from a prayer written by Mary Ann Neevel, *Bread for the Journey: Resources for Worship*, ed. Ruth C. Duck, Pilgrim Press, 1981. Prayers of the People written by Teri McDowell Ott, © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2023  
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Audio/Video: Steve Parker and David Stoffel

Music Director: Keith Atwater

Organist: Rick Schlosser

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Drums: Will Condrey

Guitar: Michael Schwab

Vocalists: Karen Gray and Julie Ueltzen



**CARMICHAEL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5645 Marconi Ave. ■ Carmichael, CA 95608 ■ 916-486-9081 ■ [www.carmichaelpres.org](http://www.carmichaelpres.org)