The Worship of God

December 20, 2015

A SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHTING

Six O’Clock P.M.

HANDBELL PRELUDE: I Saw Three Ships
WORDS OF WELCOME
THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 9:2-7
ORGAN MEDITATION: Prelude on Greensleeves

* PROCESIONAL CAROL 165: “Once in Royal David’s City”
(Please remain seated during the first two stanzas. Rise during the organ interlude.)

Solo: Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Choir: He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

* Organ Interlude: Please stand as you are able.

* All: For he is our childhood’s pattern, day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew, and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

* All: And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that Child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Bo Browder, soloist

* THE INVOCATION

Elizabeth Edwards

LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-5
Isaiah proclaims comfort and the coming of the Lord.

CHILDREN’S ANTHEM: “Come, Messiah, Come”
Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20
The psalmist calls us to rejoice at the coming of the Lord.

ANTHEM: “Lo, How a Rose E’r Blooming”
Michael Praetorious/arr. David Shand

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-9
Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

CHILDREN’S ANTHEM: “Come, Messiah, Come”
Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ANTHEM: “Dormi, Dormi”
arr. Mary Goetze

THE FIFTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25
Jesus’ birth is revealed to Joseph in a dream.

CHILDREN’S ANTHEM: “The Snow Lay on the Ground”
arr. Carl Coates, Jr.


ANTHEM: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
The text of the anthem is hymn 144.

THE SEVENTH LESSON: Colossians 1:15-20
The Apostle Paul celebrates the supremacy of Christ.

ANTHEM: “Thou Shalt Know Him”
arr. David Shand

THE EIGHTH LESSON: John 1:1-14
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

ANTHEM: “O, how a Rose E’r Blooming”
Michael Praetorious/arr. David Shand

THE NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

THE RITUAL OF LIGHT
The lighting of candles symbolizes the coming of Jesus who said, “I am the Light of the World.” and is a reminder that we spread his light to all humankind. Each person will offer light from his candle to his neighbor. As you take the light, please tilt your candle toward the flame to avoid spilling wax. To symbolize our sharing of the light with the world, raise your candles high for the singing of the final stanza of “Silent Night.” Please remain seated.
CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: "Silent Night"  STILLE NACHT

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.
4. 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!

THE BENEDICTION (Please remain seated for the Benediction and Choral Blessing.)

THE CHORAL BLESSING: "The Work of Christmas"  Dan Forrest

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.

Howard Thurman, from The Mood of Christmas

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Three Versets on Away in a Manger  Mark Blatchly

* Congregation stands.

Following the service, you may return the extinguished candles to the gold boxes located at each door. The luminaries in the courtyard are another witness to the ways in which we share Christ’s light with the world. Please enjoy these lights. May they shine for us all as we depart from worship prepared to serve.

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright  Elizabeth Edwards  Amy Shortt
Senior Minister  Associate Minister  Minister of Music

Mark Pichowicz  Interim Organist

Dalton Jordan  Beth Seagroves  Sara Raper
Acolyte  Torch Bearer  Crucifer

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION
December 24 - 6 o’clock p.m.
“Starry Stranger, Guiding Light”
Chris Ellis, violinist
Bo Browder, Chase Joyner, Ann Sawyer, Amy Shortt, soloists

The artwork on the cover is "Adoration of the Magi" by Abraham Bloemaert, 1623-24.

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