December 17, 2017

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

PRELUDE: Awake, Calls the Voice to Us  
J.S. Bach

**WORDS OF WELCOME**  
Jody Wright

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP**  
Isaiah 35:1-10  
Jeanette Pitzman

**HANDBELL MEDITATION**  
“Once in Royal David’s City”  
(arr. Cynthia Dobrinski)

**PROCESSIONAL 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:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir: Christ came down to earth from heaven, love incarnate for us 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 he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew.

**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 and Chase Joyner, soloists

* THE INVOCATION  
Elizabeth Edwards

**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**THE FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 40:1-5  
Jan Robillard

Isaiah proclaims comfort and the coming of the Lord.

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

O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come. Lord, reveal your mercy. Guide us, Lord, we pray. May we see your Light and walk your way. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord, we pray.

Come, Messiah, come!

**THE SECOND LESSON:** Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20  
Frank Maynard

The prophet calls us to rejoice at the coming of the Lord.

**CAROL 148:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”  
Adèste Fideles

**THE THIRD LESSON:** Isaiah 11:1-9  
Wayne Cotton

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

**ANTHEM:** “Creation Will Be at Peace”  
Anna Laura Page

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease; in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace. The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed, their young will play together; a little child will lead. The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw. They will war no more; a child will lead them all.

**THE FOURTH LESSON:** Luke 1:26-38  
Janet Sykes

The angel Gabriel hails the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**THE FIFTH LESSON:** Matthew 1:18-25  
Grady Davis

Jesus’ birth is revealed to Joseph in a dream.

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

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright, when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night. Venite adoremus Dominum. Twas Mary, Virgin pure, of holy Anne, that brought into this world the God made man. She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem, the sheep and donkey shared the roof with him. Saint Joseph, too, was busy to tend the child; to guard him and protect his Mother mild; The angels hovered round and sang this song: “Venite adoremus Dominum.” And thus the manger poor became a throne; for he, whom Mary bore, was God the Son. O come, then let us join the heavenly host to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Venite adoremus Dominum.

**THE SIXTH LESSON:** Luke 2:1-14  
Spencer Bulluck


**ANTHEM:** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
Bill Sneden

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 men on earth. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in. 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. Elizabeth Edwards, flutist

**THE SEVENTH LESSON:** Luke 2:15-20  
Betty Lane Winslow

The shepherds go to the manger.

**ANTHEM:** “Star in the East”  
The American Vocalist 1849/ed. Brad Holmes

Hail thou blest morn, when the great mediator, down from the regions of glory descends. Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger, Lo for his guard the bright angels attend. O Comforter, daughter of Zion, rise with speed and come. Let all the earth adore the Lamb, who is the world’s Redeemer. Bow down your heads before the King; let Israel now rejoice. For the glory of the Lord shall rise upon you, and his peace shall be upon his people. Praise the Lord, all nations; praise him, all people.

**THE EIGHTH LESSON:** Matthew 2:1-12  
Will Lucas

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.

**ANTHEM:** “Laudate Dominum”  
Reginald Heber, 1811

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever, and for generations of generations. Amen.

Bo Browder, soloist
THE NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14  Jody Wright

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 you 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

ORGAN POSTLUDE: O Hail this Brightest of Days  J.S. Bach

* 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  Mark Pichowicz
Senior Minister  Associate Minister  Minister of Music  Organist
Sadie Ponte  Georgia Morris  Connor Evans
Acolyte  Torch Bearer  Crucifer

"Nativity and Annunciation to the Shepherds” by Bernardino Luini 1520-25

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