

SING NOEL

A Carol Service

by
Hal H. Hopson

First United Methodist Church

Rev. Alan W. McBride, Pastor

December 12, 2004

5:00 p.m.

Carol Prelude

arr. Hal H. Hopson

O Little Town of Bethlehem
The First Noel
Silent Night, Holy Night

Carol

Music Makers

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed; Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

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.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

All stand for the procession.

Entrance Hymn

Congregation and Choir

Angels, We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Congregation and Choir

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their strains. **Refrain:** Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which
your heav'nly song? **Refrain**
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**
4. See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. **Refrain**

(1)

A Bidding Prayer (*All remain standing*)

Rev. Alan W. McBride

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season with joy let us hear once more the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear in word and song the story of God's love for us in the gift of this Holy Child. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and justice on earth; for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died. Let us remember, in Christ's name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, all who are sick and who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore. And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ has taught us saying:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Opening Proclamation

Reader

from CHANTICLEER by William Austin (1587-1634)

Carol

Chancel Choir

Sing Noel

Traditional African Carol

Sing Noel, Sing Noel, Noel, Noel. Sing we all Noel. Sing we all Noel.

Reading

The Promised Messiah is Heralded by John the Baptist
from COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE by Johannes Olearius (1611-1684);
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Carol

Tenor solo and Choir

Prepare the Way, O Zion

The SWENSKA PSALMBOKEN (1697)

Prepare ye! Prepare ye the way! Prepare ye the way of the Lord! Make straight! Make straight in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear! Great One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story: O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name!

Fling wide your gates, O Zion, your Savior's rule embrace; and tidings of salvation proclaim in ev'ry place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name!

Reading

The Annunciation

Text by Venantius Fortunatus; translated by John M. Neale (1818-1866)

(2)

Carol

Soprano solo and Choir

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Basque Carol

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame: "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady!" Gloria! "For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be; all generations laud and honor thee: Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold. Most highly favored lady!" Gloria! Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said, "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." Most highly favored lady! Gloria!

Reading

The Joy of the Shepherds

AT BETHLEHEM by Richard Crashaw (1612-1649)

Carol (*All stand*)

Congregation and Choir

The First Noel

Traditional English Carol

Congregation and Choir

1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel. Noel.

Reading

The Angels' Song of Peace

CHRISTMAS BELLS by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

Carol

Choir

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

16th century French Carol

Ding! dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing; Ding! dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing: Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, and "I-o, i-o, i-o!" by priest and people sungen. Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, you ringers! May you beautifully rhyme your evetime song, you singers! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Reading

A Servant-King is Born

NEW PRINCE, NEW POMP by Robert Southwell (1561-1595)

Carol (*Remain seated*)

Congregation and Choir

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

1. Choir and Congregation

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.

2. Choir and Congregation (Women's Voices)

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

3. Choir and Congregation (All Voices)

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters

in.

(3)

Reading

Mary, the Tender Mother of Jesus
Anonymous medieval text

Carol

The Christ-Child's Lullaby

Soprano solo and Choir
Traditional Scottish Carol

My joy, my love, my darling, thou! My treasure new, my rapture, thou! My lowly beauteous babe-son, thou!
Unworthy I to tend to thee. Halleluia. The sun and hope of light art thou! Of love, the heart and eye art thou! Tho'
but a tender babe, I bow in heav'ly rapture unto thee. Halleluia.

Reading

The Kings Pay Their Homage
From PRAYERS AT CHRISTMAS; text by Nathaniel Wanley (1634-1680)

Carol

March of the Kings

Men's Choir
13th century French Carol

Refrain: Star so bright, now shining through the night, it lights our journey as we march to Bethlehem. Star so bright,
now shining through the night, it lights our journey as we march along.

In joyful wonder, in firm array, we sing Noel, we go to find where the Holy Child may lay.

Refrain

We'll worship him, whom the prophets told; we'll bring him myrrh, and we'll bring him frankincense and gold.

Refrain

March we on to see the Savior.

Reading

The Whole World Sings Noel
From WHAT SWEETER MUSIC CAN WE BRING by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Carol (*All stand*)

O Come, Joyfully

Congregation and Choir
O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL
and JOY TO THE WORLD

Congregation and Choir

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.

Instrumental Interlude

Congregation and Choir

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature
sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Please be seated

(4)

Reading

The Word Became Flesh and Lived Among Us

WHILE ALL THINGS WERE IN QUIET SILENCE *from the Christmas Vespers of the Anglican Church;*
LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS *by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

Carol (*Remain seated*)

Silent Night, Holy Night

Congregation and Choir
STILLE NACHT

1. Congregation and Choir

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. Choir

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

3. Choir and Men of the Congregation

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.

Instrumental Interlude

4. Congregation and Choir

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!

Choir

Silent night, holy night!

The Blessing

Rev. Alan W. McBride

May Christ, the Incarnate One, fill you with inward peace and love; and the blessing of God Almighty, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional and Carol Postlude (*Remain seated*)

Ding-Dong! Merrily on High
March of the Kings
Joy to the World

(5)

Chancel Choir Director

Jerry Spann

Organist

Lyra Crapps

Soloists

Jason Grace, tenor

Jessica Smith, soprano

Chancel Choir Members

Aaron Barr, Jean Barr, John Dick Barr, Elaine Bassett, Elaine Blair, Montney Burkett, Don Crapps, Thomas Duke, Dianne Flowers, Scott Flowers, Gladys Grace, Jason Grace, Thomas Johnston, Tom Murphree, Angela Roling, Muriel Saunders, Edith Smith, Jessica Smith, Betty Spann, Buddy Starling, Mary Starling, Bobbie Swisher, Rhae Swisher, Donna Webster

Music Makers

Tripp Blackmon, Sam Collier, Kyle Daugherty, Taylor Eaton, Laura McBride, Trip Roberts, Anna Starling, Josh Starling, Mary Margaret Starling, Behrens Watkins, Tres Watson

Handbell Choir

Sybil Allen, Pat Duke, Leah Spurlin, Rachel Spurlin

Violinist

Pat Trice

Flautist

Ashley Swenning

Percussionist

Ben Dunn

Reader

Jim Roling

Acolytes

Carly Smith

Sidney Sullivan

Ushers

John Flora

Leon Hilyer

Sound and Lighting Technician

Russell Tillery

Programs

Joan Barron

(6)