

First Presbyterian Church
A Celebration of Lessons and Carols for Christmas
December 24, 2017, 8:00 pm

David Hagen, conductor; Marie Matetich, organ
John Cleveland, trumpet; Evan Hagen, horn
Shawn Campbell & Patti Devine, trombones
Roxann Berry, flute; Nate Berry, violin
Bill Hazelton, reader

Music for the Gathering of the People of God **Brass Ensemble**

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *“Now is Born the Devine Christ Child”* **Handbells**

✠ **Call to Worship** (responsively)

Leader: Listen. Deep in the darkest night is the sound of hope.

People: Deep in the midst of despair is a message of new life.

Leader: Listen. It is coming closer.

People: A bell in the distance,

Leader: A sound of joy,

People: An echo of love,

Leader: A note of promise,

People: A melody of praise.

Leader: Listen.

✠ **Hymn: #173** *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

Verse 1:

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.

Verse 3:

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n 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.

Verse 4:

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;

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.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Matthew Schultz

The Prophecy

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 40:5, 7:14

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Hymn: #135 *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

Verse 1:

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,

Born to set thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us,

Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,

Hope of all the earth thou art;

Dear desire of ev'ry nation,

Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Verse 2:

Born thy people to deliver,

Born a child and yet a King,

Born to reign in us forever,

Now they gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit

Rule in all our hearts alone;

By thing all-sufficient merit,

Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes,
Let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.

The Angels and The Shepherds

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-14

Hymn: #152 *“Angels We Have Heard On High”*

Verse 1:
Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Verse 2:
Shepherd, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Verse 3:
Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Handbells: *“Patapan”*

At The Manger

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2: 15-16

“O Holy Night”

Pat Peacock

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Roxann Berry & Nate Berry

Offertory Response and Dedication of Offerings **Choir**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”/ Holst
What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Tonight’s offering will go to support the following:

Covenant House Alaska serves homeless, at-risk, and trafficked youth by meeting the basic needs of youth in crisis and providing them with support to become healthy, self-sufficient, contributing members of our community.

AWAIC (Abused Women’s Aid in Crisis) maintains a shelter in Anchorage where victims of domestic violence and their children may seek help any time they are in danger by providing a safe shelter, support, advocacy, and prevention through education and outreach efforts.

First Presbyterian Church’s ongoing needs as we provide opportunities for worship, faith formation, advocacy, and outreach in Anchorage, in Alaska, and our larger world.

The Wise Men

Sixth Lesson: Matthew 2: 1-11

Choir Anthem: *“Song of the Shepherds”*

Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Run, see the Baby lying in a manger.
Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Born today is Christ the Lord!

“Glory to God!” Hear the shepherds singing,
“Glory to God!” The angels’ song still ringing!
“Glory to God!” All heav’n and earth reply!
“Glory to God!” The King is born tonight!

Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Run, see the Baby lying in a manger.
Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem!
Born today is Christ the Lord!

Word of Blessing For All

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2: 29-32, Isaiah 60:1

✠ **Hymn: # 146** *“Joy to the World”*

Verse 1:
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.

Verse 2:
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,

Verse 4:
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nation prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Matthew Schultz

✠ **Hymn: # 164**

“Silent Night”

Verse 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.

Verse 2:

Silent night! Holy Night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly host sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Verse 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.

Postlude

“Hallelujah Chorus”

Organ and Brass Ensemble

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A CELEBRATIONS OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



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