



“Advent Triptych,” John August Swanson

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021

Welcome to worship this morning with the First Baptist Church of Christ. We are thrilled to be back worshipping in our sanctuary after a year outside of our building. As we gather this morning know that we are committed to everyone's safety and comfort as we create sacred space and time together.

Things to Know

- Masks are required at all times during worship, when moving through the building, and when with children. Each Sunday school class is making its own decisions regarding masks in class.
- Please keep social distance by avoiding gathering in groups before and after the service.
- Be mindful of others. Err on the side of caution out of respect for those who are abiding by stricter practices.
- Participate in the service as much or as little as you like. Stand when others stand, or remain seated. Sing when others sing, or enjoy the way this old sanctuary fills with sound. Invitations to stand as you are able are marked with an asterisk (*). Invitations to respond in word or song are noted in bold.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please find an usher.

For Those With Children

Thank you for bringing a child to worship! Take a deep breath and know they are welcome here. On this special night the church doesn't provide any childcare so that your family may enjoy the service together. In our hopes to fully include all ages, the Fellowship Hall has been set up with some interactive prayer activities and will be showing the live stream. If your family chooses to worship from there, we will be sure your family joins us in the sanctuary for Let the Children Come and the candle lighting. We also have flameless LED candles available at the side entrance (near the elevator) for children 5 and under.

For Those with Special Needs

Thank you for joining us for worship! We love our historic buildings, but know they can be a challenge for those with mobility needs. Know that we are committed to doing all we can to make this space welcoming to everyone. Reserved seating for those in wheel chairs and those sitting with them is found near the elevator, and is marked with signs on the walls and on the back of the pews. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher for assistance. Large print bulletins are available at both entrances. If you have special hearing needs, please ask one of the ushers to bring you a hearing assistance device from the sound booth in the back, or feel free to go back there and get one. An accessible restroom is located up one floor across from the office. If you, or someone with you, requires special assistance for any reason, please find a minister or an usher.

THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

The Prelude

Anne Armstrong

The Call to Worship

Joe, Mary Jane, Jonathan, and Kathryn Johnson
and Cindy Dunham

God of light, on this holy night you have given us the Christ: the Light of the world,
wrapped in swaddling clothes; the Savior of us all, lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

Draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with all the heavenly hosts that we
may sing your glory on high.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

We light this Christ candle against a world of darkness. Help us to be people of the light, O
God for whom we have waited, O God who has arrived.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

Luke 2:7, 14

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Joe, Mary Jane, Jonathan, and Kathryn Johnson
and Cindy Dunham

The Congregational Response 103 O Come, All Ye Faithful
(refrain)

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore him

O come, let us adore him

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*Carol 102

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Marie Jarriel Roberts, music leader

arr. David Willcocks

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;

Let earth receive her King:

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
 Let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrow grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
 And wonders, and wonders of His love.**

*Invocation & Welcome

Scott Dickison

Duet

“The Snow Lay on the Ground”
Ella Fenimore, soprano
Julianna Dumas, mezzo soprano
Kelley Dixson, flute

English carol
William Cutter

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Harriet Eason

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.
 For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Beau Roberts

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God.

Carol 110

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

(Remain seated, the children will come to the front during the singing of the final stanza)

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.**

“Let the Children Come”

JD Granade

(Remain seated, the children will return to their seat during the singing of this carol)

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]**

**Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

Third Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Kelsey Stillwell

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has

made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God

Solo

“O Holy Night”
Caroline Cooke, soprano

Adolphe Adam

Meditation

Scott Dickison

Sharing the Gift of Light

*Carol of Peace

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Stanza 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.**

Stanza 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!**

Stanza 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.**

Stanza 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.**

Postlude

Anne Armstrong, organ



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