FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.

Saturday, December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve

Welcome to worship with the First Baptist Church of Christ.

Whatever road has brought you here and wherever you should go once we depart, know that you are welcome in this space fully and completely, and that the image of God we all bear together this hour is more complete because you are here as a part of it.

Things to Know

Masks are now optional on the church campus. We understand there are those within the congregation who will need or want to continue to wear masks, and we will continue to keep masks around the church for those who may want to use them.

Restrooms can be found through the double doors on the side near the elevator, one flight of stairs up or one flight down.

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.

For Those With Children

Thank you for bringing a child to worship! Take a deep breath and know they are welcome here. Parents with infants are more than welcome to remain in the sanctuary, or ushers can direct you down the back stairs to a comfortable room with sound from the sanctuary so all can still hear the service.

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. 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 — Dexter, Yumiko, Christina, and Hiro Jones

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 — Dexter, Yumiko, Christina, and Hiro Jones

*Carol 103 — O Come, All Ye Faithful — ADESTE FIDELES

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!

(Refrain)
O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, He shuns not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created. (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

*Invocation & Welcome — Scott Dickison

First Lesson | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 | Lorelai Wall

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.

Solo | "Gesu Bambino" | Pietro Yon

Rebecca Pursiful, mezzo soprano

Second Lesson | Luke 2:1-7 | Jillian Dumas

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 you for heaven, to live with Thee there.

"Let the Children Come" Kelsey Stillwell

The Friendly Beasts

Scott Dickison, guitar

Jesus our brother kind and good
Was humbly born in a stable rude
And the friendly beasts around him stood
Jesus our brother kind and good

"I," said the donkey, all shaggy and brown
"I carried his mother uphill and down
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town"
"I," said the donkey all shaggy and brown

"I," said the cow, all white and red
"I gave him my manger, for a bed
I gave him my hay to pillow his head"
"I," said the cow, all white and red

"I," said the sheep with the curly horn
I gave him my wool for a blanket warm
He wore my coat on Christmas morn"
"I," said the sheep with the curly horn

"I," said the dove from rafters high
I cooed him to sleep so he wouldn't cry
We cooed him to sleep my mate and I"
"I," said the dove from the rafters high

Thus every beast by some good spell
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel

Carol 143 Go Tell It On the Mountain GO TELL IT

(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 Tim Johansen

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" — Adolphe Adam
Caroline Cook, soprano

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

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and communion table and the minister's stoles are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. The season of Christmas lasts for twelve days between Christmas Day and Epiphany. The color white symbolizes purity and hope.

Cover Art

"Vertep," by Ukrainian artist, Maksym Maksymiv, 2016.

Meaning "secret place," as in the place where Jesus was born. In Ukrainian culture, *vertep* was originally a portable puppet theater presenting the nativity scene. Now the *vertep* tradition more often involves children dressing up and playing the parts of the nativity while caroling, which the artist evokes here.

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