

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Christmas Eve, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Prelude Dr. Carl Bradley, Organist & Mr. Sammy Marshall, Pianist
We Three Kings
Arr. Diane Bish

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor Kit Tomlinson & Dr. Leslie Tomlinson

† Opening Hymn No 174

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

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

2 God of God, and Light of Light begotten,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created: **[Refrain]**

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: **[Refrain]**

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: **[Refrain]**

Lighting the Candle of the Christ Child

Trey, Elizabeth, Clara, Lyla & William Hill

Advent Prayer

Dr. Tomlinson

**We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives,
and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—
born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry,
in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God;
his voice undimmed by the centuries
his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so
long ago.
Come to us, Lord Jesus,
Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.
May the light of your life be kindled in us,
And lead us to the shining truth,
of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

Carol No. 192

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 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 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 the earth!

3 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.

Special Music

Dr. Richard Novak, Soloist

O Holy Night
Adam

Live Nativity

John 1:1-5
Luke 2:1-19 & Matthew 2:1-12

Mary: Evelyn Coufal

Joseph: David Ali

Stars: Emma Dale

Angels: Juliana Wolfe, Benjamin Espinal, Audrey Hammond,
Meredith Hammond

Wisemen: Dominic Espinal, Colton Gray, Brantley Gray

Readers: Abbey Erskine, Austyn Witt

Shepherds: Barrett Hammond, August Coufal , Charleston
Coufal

Donkey: Lucas Gray, Jesse Hernandez

Sheep: Annalee Piland, Collin Farmer

Cow: Jackson Wolfe, Spencer Hammond

Volunteers: Avery Erskine, Allison Piland, Skylar Hernandez,
Annette Farmer

*(All children are invited to come forward following the Live
Nativity for Mrs. Tara's message.)*

Children's Time

Mrs. Tara Sutherland

Scripture Reading

Dr. Carl Bradley, Lay Servant
Isaiah 11:1-9

Message
Carol No. 197

Pastor Tomlinson
Away in a Manger

1 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.

2 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 until morning is nigh.

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

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Tomlinson

Offertory Dr. Bradley, Organist & Mr. Sammy Marshall, Pianist
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

† **Offertory Response No 180 (v. 3)** MENDELSSOHN

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth. Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

A TIME OF INSTRUCTION FOR CANDLELIGHTING

Candlelight Anthem

FMC Choir

God So Loved This Silent Night
Pepper Choplin

During the choir's singing of *God So Loved This Silent Night*, we will pass the light (please ask an usher if you need a child friendly candle) from the Christ Candle on the altar to the entire congregation, with the help of our ushers. When the light comes to you, tilt your unlighted candle to your neighbor's lighted candle. Keep your lighted candle upright while your neighbor lights his or her candle from yours. Please help everyone around you stay safe by keeping lighted candles away from paper, hair, and clothing.

Upon cue from our choir director, we will begin singing *Silent Night* together as a congregation. Please remain in your place while singing. At the conclusion of *Silent Night*, please extinguish your candle, our ushers will escort you toward the exits of the Sanctuary, while our choir continues to sing. Please leave in silence and have a blessed Christmas.

† **Candlelight Carol No. 199**

Silent Night

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.

(Continued on the back of the bulletin.)

2 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 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.

† *Please stand, as able.*

Have a Merry Christmas!

If you purchased a poinsettia, please take it home with you after the service. We thank you for beautifying our sanctuary this Advent Season.