



**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude *Christmas Celebration* arr. Garth Williams
Festival Orchestra; Jill Post, Director

Welcome The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

Introit *Advent Processional* Donald Pearson
Sanctuary Choir, Percussion and Bells; Shawn Neisen, Director

***Carol 133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)

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

Reading *The Coming of God*

Gift of Music *How Far is it to Bethlehem?* arr. Robert Sterling
K-2 Choir; Erin Torpey, Director; Krista Clusiau, Flute; Alyssa Miller, Cello

Carol 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Reading

Holding

Gift of Music

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
Genesis Ringers; Sally Harmon, Director

Charles Maggs

Reading

Mary, Nazareth Girl

Gift of Music

Mary's Boy Child Traditional Spiritual
Ukulele Ensemble; Penny Andrist, Director; Jeff Olson, song leader
(Please join in singing when directed)



1. Long time a - go in Beth - le - hem, _____ so the Ho - ly Bi - ble say, _____
2. Jo - seph _____ and his wife Ma - ry _____ went to Beth - le - hem that night _____ And
3. shep - herds watched their flocks by night, they saw a bright, new shi - ning star. _____ And



Ma - ry's boy - child Je - sus Christ _____ was born on Christ - mas Day.
found no place to lay their heads. _____ not a sing - le room was in sight.
from the East there came three men _____ Bear - ing gifts from a - far.



Hark! now hear the an - gels sing, a new king born to - day that



folks may live for - ev - er - more _____ be - cause of Christ - mas Day. 2. Now
3. While

Carol 145

What Child is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Reading

Unexpected

Gift of Music*There Was Love*

Mark Burrows

3-6 Choir; Pam Burns, Director; Krista Clusiau, Flute; Allysa Miller, Cello;
Milo Thorp and Eleanor May, Soloists; Maggie Sundberg, Reading

Carol 110*Love Has Come*

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, as Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life, everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus, within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Reading*Had We Been There***Gift of Music***In the Bleak Midwinter*

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Westminster Ringers; Virginia Stern, keyboard; Jill Post, Director

Carol 147*The First Nowell*

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

Offering

Tonight's offering will be given to the Emergency Food Pantry.

Offertory

Angels We Have Heard on High
St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, Director

arr. Tom Camp

Prayer of Dedication

Carol 143*Angels From the Realms of Glory*

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 You, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 Come and worship; come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light;
 Come and worship; come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Reading*Into This Silent Night***Gift of Music**

Go, Tell it on the Mountain
 7-12 Choir; Shawn Neisen, Director

arr. Elizabeth Campbell

Carol 119Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
 Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
 with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

Reading*Godburst***Gift of Music**

Sing We Now of Christmas
 Combined Choirs & Orchestra; Shawn Neisen, Directing

arr. John Leavitt

Reading*Star-Giving****Carol 134***Joy to the World*

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 world! The Savior reigns! Let all our songs employ!
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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, wonders of His love.

Reading

John 1:1-5

Sharing the Light

Peace, Peace with "Silent Night" Rick and Sylvia Powell
Combined Choir with Orchestra and congregation; arr. Fred Bock
Jill Post, Directing

Please join in singing Silent Night when directed. Lift your lighted candles high on verse three.

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.

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!"

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.

Benediction

Closing Chimes

Participants

Pastors: The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood & The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

Artistic Directors: Sally Harmon, Jill Post

Choir Directors: Penny Andrist, Pam Burns, Shawn Neisen, Jill Post, Erin Torpey

Orchestra: Josh Argall, Zoe Booth, Don Carlsen Jr., Krista Clusiau, Chelsea Erstad, Shane Erstad, Mya Follingstad, Max Johnck, Savannah Joldersma, Suzanne Larson, Jon Larson, Jayci Lawrence, Carrie Lawrence, Alyssa Miller, Gene Okerlund, Susan Peterson, Greg Post, Sara Smith, Emily Stein-Ojanen, Dave Stern, Virginia Stern, Catherine Tesch, Kathleen Thomas, Kevin Thomas, Erin Torpey, Ken Wagenman, Mike Wavra, Abby Weir, Carl Weir, Diane Wolter

Pianists: Sally Harmon, Virginia Stern

Readers: Claudia Hansen, Jane Roggensack

Camera & Livestream: Katie Bigwood

Sound: Tom Bigwood

Christmas Goodies Coordinator: Tammy Olson

All the poetry readings are from the book "Kneeling in Bethlehem" by Ann Weems.

A large debt of gratitude is owed to various church members for their help behind the scenes to make this Carols by Candlelight Service run smoothly. From helping with serving, ushering, placing flowers, and more details, their help is deeply appreciated! Thanks also goes to Casey LeMier for their help with the bulletin formatting and printing, and to Rick Fiebiger and Drew Brovold for having this lovely church building ready to receive visitors.

Thank you, also, to the parents of our young choir members for getting them to rehearsals and encouraging their participation, and to the members of all the other choirs and ensembles for their dedication! Thank you, all!

Join us for even more music on December 24th with *A Dove's Tale: From Ruffled to Rejoicing* at 5:00pm, and a Lessons and Carols service at 10:30am on December 31st!

A poster for a Christmas Eve story. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes and stars. A white dove is flying on the right side. The text is centered and reads: "A Dove's Tale: From Ruffled to Rejoicing" in a mix of serif and cursive fonts. Below that, it says "A Christmas Eve story shared through music, characters, and dance." At the bottom left, it lists the date, time, and location: "December 24, 2023 5:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Fargo".

A Dove's Tale:
From Ruffled to Rejoicing
A Christmas Eve story shared through
music, characters, and dance.

December 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian
Church of Fargo

A poster for a Lessons and Carols service. The background is dark red with white snowflakes and stars. A white, textured shape resembling a snowflake or a piece of paper is in the center. The text is centered and reads: "Lessons and Carols" in a bold serif font. Below that, it says "December 31st 10:30am".

**Lessons
and Carols**
December 31st
10:30am