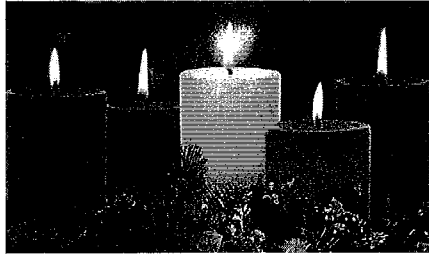


**Carmel Presbyterian Church  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship  
Service of the Word and Sacrament  
December 24, 2022, at 9:00 pm  
Prelude at 8:30 pm**



The light of the world is born...

**Order of Worship**

*\* Please stand, as able.*

*Congregation voices **Bold** responses.*

**We Gather in Worship**

***Prelude (The congregation is asked to remain quiet during the prelude.)***

***Mindy Cutcher, harp***

***Michele Kelly, flute***

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Richard Storrs Willis/arr. Brock

Il est Né

Traditional French /arr. Brock

Winter from Four Seasons, Largo

Antonio Vivaldi/arr. Brock

Patapan

Bernard de La Monnoye/arr. Brock

Gesu Bambino

Pietro A. Yon

Flute and Harp Concerto, K299, 2nd movement

W. A. Mozart/arr. Burton

Greensleeves Variations

Anonymous/ arr. Owens

***Lighting the Advent Wreath***

***The Abraham Family: Denise, Evelyn, and Audrey***

***Introduction***

Good evening! On this Christmas Eve, we are gathered as God's people to celebrate again what Christ's coming means to the world. We join with Christians all over the world who are celebrating tonight.

**Christmas is a time of worship—the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder.**

Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all people.

**Scripture**

Listen for the Word of God from Isaiah, Chapter 9, verse 6:

*For to us, a child is born, to us, a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.*

Listen for the Word of God from Luke, Chapter 2, verses 10 and 14:

*Behold, I bring you good news of a great JOY, which will come to all the people... Glory to God in the highest, and on earth PEACE among all those with whom God is pleased.*

Listen for the Word of God from Romans, Chapter 5, verse 5:

*HOPE does not disappoint us, because God’s LOVE has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

Tonight, we relight the four advent candles and recall what the good news means... Hope... Peace... Joy... Love.

**Jesus Christ is the greatest gift. Jesus makes all these other gifts possible.**

So, we light the Christ candle now, as we ponder what his coming means to each one of us.

**Call to Worship**

He’s coming! He’s coming! The Savior of the World is coming!

**Let us prepare our hearts to greet him!**

He comes to each one of us, healing and restoring our lives!

**Praise be to God for God’s mighty gift to us.**

O Come, Prince of Peace, bring your light to us!

**We are ready to receive you in our lives! AMEN.**

**\* Processional Hymn 41**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**ADESTE FIDELES**

**\* Prayer of Adoration (In unison)**

**Glorious God, who presents us with the most precious of gifts, we praise you for all your blessings in our lives. Tonight, we have come to this place, in the midst of a busy time. We might not even have everything ready at home, yet we have come because we ourselves need to be ready. Work in our hearts this night, preparing us for your presence. Work in our lives that we may reach out to others in comfort and compassion; work in our world that the darkness that has encompassed it may be dispelled by the brightness of your love and your Gift. In faith and expectation, we pray. Amen.**

**We Listen for God's Word to Us**  
**The Lights of Christmas**

**The Light of Hope**

**Isaiah 35:1-2, 8-10 (p. 623)**

The desert and the dry land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.  
They will burst into bloom,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
They will receive the glory of Lebanon,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.  
They will see the Lord's glory,  
the splendor of our God....

... A highway will be there.  
It will be called The Holy Way.  
The unclean won't travel on it,  
but it will be for those walking on that way.  
Even fools won't get lost on it;  
no lion will be there,  
and no predator will go up on it.  
None of these will be there;  
only the redeemed will walk on it.  
The Lord's ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing,  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.  
Happiness and joy will overwhelm them;  
grief and groaning will flee away.

**Anthem**

**"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Polish Carol arr. Robert Leaf**  
**Festival Choir**

*Infant holy, Infant lowly. For his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging Angels singing, Noels ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.*

*Flocks were sleeping: Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new.  
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.*

**The Light of Peace**

**A Litany of Glad Tidings**

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ, reigning with the Creator and Holy Spirit above the cherubim; worshipped by the seraphim.

**Let heaven and earth rejoice!**  
 Blessed are you, born as a little child and laid in a manger.  
**Let heaven and earth rejoice!**  
 Blessed are you, humble offspring of a human woman, yet truly God.  
**Let heaven and earth rejoice!**  
 Blessed are you, Sovereign of Glory, graciously coming to dwell among us.  
**Let heaven and earth rejoice!**  
 Blessed are you, giving us all we possess, yet accepting the gifts of visitors.  
**Let heaven and earth rejoice!**  
 Blessed are you, our Bread of Life, giving eternal life to our souls.  
**Let heaven and earth rejoice!**  
 With the angelic host and all the heavenly powers, let us proclaim and celebrate our  
 Savior's birth.  
**Let heaven and earth rejoice. Amen.**

**\*Hymn No. 48**

***"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"***

***Es Ist Ein' Ros'***

***The Light of Joy***

***Isaiah 9:2-7 (p. 600)***

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.  
 On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.  
 You have made the nation great;  
 you have increased its joy.  
 They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,  
 as those who divide plunder rejoice.  
 As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,  
 the staff on their shoulders,  
 and the rod of their oppressor.  
 Because every boot of the thundering warriors,  
 and every garment rolled in blood  
 will be burned, fuel for the fire.  
 A child is born to us, a son is given to us,  
 and authority will be on his shoulders.  
 He will be named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.  
 There will be vast authority and endless peace  
 for David's throne and for his kingdom,  
 establishing and sustaining it  
 with justice and righteousness  
 now and forever.  
 The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.

***Hymn 28***

***"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"***

***In Dulci Jubil***

**The Light of Love**

**Luke 2:1, 4-16 (p. 54)**

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists.

Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

**Carol**

***"See Amid the Winter's Snow"***  
***Evelyn Abraham, soloist***

**John Goss**

*See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

*Say, you holy shepherd's, say, Tell your joyful news today.  
Why have you now left your sheep ON the lonely mountain steep?  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

*"As we watched at dead of night, There appeared a wondrous light;  
Angels singing 'Peace on earth' Told us of the Savior's birth."  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

**The Light of Christ**

**John 1:1-5, 10-14 (p. 86)**

In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God

and the Word was God.  
 The Word was with God in the beginning.  
 Everything came into being through the Word,  
 and without the Word  
 nothing came into being.  
 What came into being  
 through the Word was life,  
 and the life was the light for all people.  
 The light shines in the darkness,  
 and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.  
  
 The light was in the world,  
 and the world came into being through the light,  
 but the world didn't recognize the light.  
 The light came to his own people,  
 and his own people didn't welcome him.  
 But those who did welcome him,  
 those who believed in his name,  
 he authorized to become God's children,  
 born not from blood  
 nor from human desire or passion,  
 but born from God.  
 The Word became flesh  
 and made his home among us.  
 We have seen his glory,  
 glory like that of a father's only son,  
 full of grace and truth.

**Meditation**

***"God Has Come to Set Us Free"***

**Pastor Peter**

***We Respond to God's Word***

***Christmas Eve Offering***

***Offertory Anthem***

***"What Is This Lovely Fragrance"***  
***Festival Choir***

***arr. Joseph Flummerfelt***

*Shepherds what is this lovely fragrance Filling the air this wondrous night?  
 Gentler than all the flowers of springtime Wafting from heaven in sweet delight.  
 Shepherds what is this lovely fragrance filling the air this wondrous night?*

*What is this light so clear, so brilliant, Filling the sky before our eyes?  
 Brighter than day a star is shining, Never have we seen such radiant skies!  
 What is this light so clear, so brilliant, Filling the sky before our eyes?*

*In Bethlehem in lowly manger Lies our Redeemer, Lord, and King.  
 Come let us hasten to adore Him, And there to Him our praises sing!  
 In Bethlehem in lowly manger Lies our Redeemer, Lord, and King.*

***Sacrament of The Lord's Supper***

***Invitation to The Lord's Table***

The prophets foretold it: the desert burst into bloom. Angelic messengers delivered the news: a priest lost his speech; a young woman found her voice. In this season of Advent, the scriptures revive old stories and bring new understandings. In the face of critics and skeptics, our faith cries out, resilient, like a baby from a manger bed. From that Bethlehem beginning, Jesus, baptized in the Jordan, spent his life serving others so that all might know the compassionate attention of a loving God. Today, Jesus serves us yet again, as we gather at this Table, he prepares for us.

***Communion Prayer***

Dear Jesus of Advent, you remain a sacred mystery to us. You have brought Good News for all the people and we will not be afraid, for you are here. We are hungry for your love which surpasses all our understanding; we are thirsty for your spirit that never runs dry. In this meal nourish our souls, feed our minds, quench our deepest longings and forgive our transgressions, that we may glorify you every day of our lives. **Amen.**

***The Words of Institution and the Distribution of the Bread and Wine***

*(Worshippers are invited to come forward using the center aisle for bread and wine/juice, returning to your seats by the side aisles. An elder will place the bread in your cupped hands for you to partake of the bread; then, please move to receive the "red" wine or "clear" grape juice; and partake of the cup, disposing of the cup in the container. Live-streaming worshippers may have the elements prepared nearby and partake along with those in the sanctuary. All who are baptized are invited to share in Christ's Table.)*

***Communion Music***

***"Carol of the Manger"***

***Dale Wood***

***Prayer after Communion (In unison.)***

**Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

***Service of Candle-Lighting: The Light of the Christ Candle Goes Out into the World***

God's stupendous sign—a child in a manger, a Light given for our darkness. Just when we think that we have understood all, we are surprised again.

**We are included—there is room for us in this picture, at this manger, in God's house—there is always room.**

God commanded light out of the darkness. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Jesus said,

**“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won’t walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”**

The Spirit of God is with us—here, among us right now. The true light, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world.

**He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being.**

In him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

The light of God is given for you—given to you—and by you, it is given to others.

***Distribution of the Light from the Christ Candle***

*(Please hold lit candles upright, tipping unlit candles to receive the flame. For those worshipping with the live stream, please light carefully a candle near you.)*

**\*Hymn 60**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

***Stille Nacht***

***We Bear and Follow the Word into the World***

**\*Hymn 40 (Stanzas 1 & 4 only)**

**“Joy to the World”**

***Antioch***

**\*Benediction (Isaiah 9, Luke 2)**

*(Following the Benediction, kindly extinguish your candle and place it in the marked receptacle as you exit the sanctuary.)*

A child has been born for us.

**God’s grace has been given to us.**

From a stable, in Bethlehem, our savior has come. We have seen the glory of the Lord,

**Revealed in the face of the Christ child. We can hardly contain our amazement.**

Tell the world. Treasure the story. Ponder it in your heart.

**We will Glorify and praise God, for all we have heard and seen!**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ has come!

**Amen!**

***Postlude***

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

***Dale Wood***

\*\*\*\*\*

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***Participants Serving the Church in Worship***

*Peter Sulyok, Transitional Senior Pastor*

*John Diller, Called Pastor, beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023*

*James D. Eby, Pastor Emeritus*

*Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Director of Music*

*Deb Gates and Janet Simon, Elders assisting with Communion*

*The Carmel Presbyterian Church Festival Choir*

*Evelyn Abraham, soloist*

*Tom Bohlander, Jay Raulinaitis, and Dave Rice, Live-Streaming Operators*

***Carmel Presbyterian Church***

*100 Edge Hill Road, Glenside, PA 19038*

*215-887-1074*

*[www.presbycarmel.org](http://www.presbycarmel.org)*

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

41

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)  
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)  
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,  
 \*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!  
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!  
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

*Refrain*  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

\*Alternate harmonization and descant for stanza 3, 42

48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

German carol, 15th century  
 Trans. Theodore Baker (1851-1934)  
 Alt. Rejoice in the Lord, 1985

Alte Catholische Geistliche  
 Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1599  
 Arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung,  
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in mind,

Of Jes-se's lin-eage com - ing, By faith - ful proph - ets sung.  
 With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er kind.

It came a flower-et bright, A - mid the cold of  
 To show God's love a - right She bore for us a

win - ter, When half spent was the night.  
 Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.  
 was the

# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.8.5.5

Medieval Latin

Trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853; alt.

German folk tune, 14th century

Harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953

1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;  
 2. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;  
 3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say:      Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 Now ye hear of end - less bliss:      Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 Now ye need not fear the grave:      Je - sus Christ was born to save!

Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now.  
 He hath o - pened heav - en's door, And we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all To gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!      Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this!      Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save!      Christ was born to save!

# Silent Night, Holy Night

60

STILLE NACHT Irregular

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Trans. John Freeman Young, 1863

Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight, Glo - ries  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - dian't  
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won-drous star, lend thy light; With the

vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heaven-ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia;  
 beams from Thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."  
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
 Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
 Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh',  
 Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh'!

2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
 Hirten erst kundgemacht  
 Durch der Engel Alleluja,  
 Tönt est laut von fern und nah:  
 Christ der Retter ist da,  
 Christ der Retter ist da!

3. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
 Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht  
 Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,  
 Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund':  
 Christ, in deiner Geburt,  
 Christ, in deiner Geburt!

## Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -  
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,  
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow  
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture  
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His  
 And heaven and na - ture sing,



And



sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.



heaven and na - ture sing