

# Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

## Aisquith Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2014

11:00 PM

Prelude Concert (10:45 PM)

English and French Traditional

Mary Ann Brandli, flute; Gloria Hague, harpsichord; Brian Kookan, guitar

Call to Worship (11:00 PM)

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her king! Let every heart prepare him room! And heaven and nature sing!*

This Christmas Eve, we light this white candle as a visible sign that Jesus Christ is at the center of our lives and at the heart of this church. And we confess together...

**We believe in “one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of Gods, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.”**  
*from The Nicene Creed*

Processional

*Once in Royal David's City*

H. J. Gauntlett

Lucas Hague, soloist

(Hymn No. 225 – The congregation will *stand* and join in on verses 4 & 5)

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

\*Invocation

## The Nine Lessons of Christmastide

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-15

God declares in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the

woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

*Ding Dong! Merrily on High*

16<sup>th</sup> century French tune  
Adult Choir and flute

The

Second

Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed  
shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

\*Carol No. 196

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Hyfrydol

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;  
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-14; 9:2, 6, 7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*  
*(Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying)*

J. S. Bach

The Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

The prophet foretells the glory of Bethlehem.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

*African Alleluia*

Kenyan Folk Melody

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

\*Carol No. 201 (vv. 1, 2)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

St. Louis

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 wond'ring love.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

The Sixth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

The Evangelists tell of the birth of Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

*Joy to the World*

arr. Alice Parker

The Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

*Carol of the Shepherds*

Bohemian

\*Carol No. 200

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Carol

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all gracious King";  
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend n' hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

The Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Holly and the Ivy*

arr. Gendron

Mary Ann Brandli, flute; Brian Kookan, guitar

The Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

*Sing Praise to Christ*

J. S. Bach

\*Carol No. 210

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

No. 210

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, heav'nly 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.

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!

\*Benediction

Postlude

*Fanfare*

*Marc Otterstad*  
Gloria Hague, organ

**(Please carefully extinguish all candles before you leave!)**

**A special thanks** to all our guest musicians and a very special thanks to Mrs. Gloria Hague our Director of Music for coordinating our music and musicians.

**Our Christmas Offering** will go to the *PCA Ministerial Relief Fund*.

**If you donated a poinsettia** for this year's service, thank you! You may take it home after the service.

**There will** be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. The worship service will be at 10:30 AM as usual. *RockHouse* will **not** meet that evening.

**The 2015 offering envelopes** are in the narthex. If you would like to begin using envelopes for your giving, please speak to Pastor Bell.

**Please pick up your Christmas Cards!**

**Our Musicians Tonight:**

**The Choir:**

**Sopranos**

Edith Brown  
Kathy Fleming  
Fran Oswinkle  
Nancy Pearre  
Anita Taylor  
Wendy Wickham

**Alto**

Jean Evans  
Elaine Ficek  
Patricia Hengen  
Elena Morris

**Handbells**

Jacob Bracken  
Julian Hague  
Lucas Hague  
Marcus Hague  
Celia Kuriny  
Meara Kuriny  
Lisa Snowden  
Amelia Wickham  
Beryl Wickham

**Bass**

Ron Brown  
Julian Hague  
Buckey Pearre  
Jeff Soule  
Tom Warner

**Tenor**

George Oswinkle  
Randy Williams

**Instrumentalists**

Mary Ann Brandli, flute  
Gloria Hague, harpsichord and organ  
Brian Kookken, guitar