

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Aisquith Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2015
7:30 PM

Prelude Concert (7:15 PM)

French and English Traditional Carols

Mary Ann Brandli, Flute
Brian Kookan, Classical Guitar

Call to Worship (7:30 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

A Seasonal Alleluia

Volkmar Leisring

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. 195

Joy to the World

Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing...

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy...

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found...

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love...

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.**

*Carol No. 213

What Child Is This

English Carol

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.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come peasant, king to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

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

Medieval Gloria

Vijay Singh

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

The Evangelist tells of the birth of Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

All Is Well

arr. Ronn Huff

The Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

*Carol No. 218

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Saints below the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising to the'eternal Three in One:

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

We Three Kings

John Henry Hopkins
Aisquith Boy and Young Men Choir

*Carol No. 230

Thou Who Was Rich

French carol

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who was rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising, heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

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

Glory to God in the Highest

G. B. Pergolesi

*Carol No. 210

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

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

(Please carefully extinguish all candles before you leave your seat!)

Postlude

Elizabethan Gigue

Byrd

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.

Join us downstairs for punch and cookies after the service!

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 9:00 AM Sunday School on Sunday, December 27th. The worship service will be at 10:30 AM as usual. *RockHouse* will **not** meet that evening.

The 2016 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:

Director of Music, Mrs. Gloria Hague
Handbell Choir directed by Mrs. Wendy Wickham

The Adult Choir:

Sopranos

Edith Brown
Kathy Fleming
Lucas Hague
Brandi Kuriny
Fran Oswinkle
Nancy Pearre
Angela St. Pierre
Amelia Wickham
Beryl Wickham
Wendy Wickham

Basses

Ron Brown
Donald Chilcote
Julian Hague
Buckey Pearre
Jeff Soule

Altos

Jean Evans
Elaine Ficek
Patricia Hengen

Tenors

Don Baker
Marcus Hague
Timothy Johnson
David Kuriny
George Oswinkle

Handbells

Julian Hague
Lucas Hague
Marcus Hague
David Kuriny
Quinn Rafferty
Amelia Wickham
Beryl Wickham

Instrumentalists

Mary Ann Brandli, flute
Luis Engelke, trumpet
Gloria Hague, organ
Timothy Johnson, trombone
Brian Kookan, guitar
Donald Wolcott, piano

Aisquith Boy and Young Men Choir

Jackson Clark
Julian Hague
Lucas Hague
Marcus Hague
David Kuriny

Ivan Kuriny
Joseph Kuriny
Quinn Rafferty
Zechariah Wickham