



DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Christmas Tidings!
Advent Special Music Sunday 2020

One: We come, longing to experience Him,
Many: The One who was, who is, and who will be forever.
God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God,
Begotten, not made, through whom all things are made.
One: Let us worship the Eternal Spirit in the presence of this holy
temple.

Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

1. 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.

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: (Ref.)

3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star. (Ref.)

4. All creation, join in praising God Creator, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. (Ref.)

Choir II

Centering Prayer (responsive)

Andrea Folan

One: Light of Light, Peace that passes all understanding ...

Many: ... here we are only a few days before Christmas, and the
anticipation is growing for us to experience Jesus' birth in a new
way – not as children anticipating presents, but as people who
have been through much in life, and who need to be renewed in
our Hope, Love, and Joy in order to find the Peace that your Spirit
offers us. O Holy One, clear away from us all that keeps us from
experiencing the Holy Mystery of this Season. Realign us with your
Plan, we ask.

One: Jesus came to change the world.

Many: Along the way, he changes our lives as well. In the Bethlehem of our hearts, a new life is being born, and new peace is being felt as we follow the Star that leads to the Light. The Light of Christ is growing inside us. Let all of God's people rejoice!

One: Renew a right Spirit within us, we ask.

Many: Amen.

Special Music

Good King Wenceslas

Arr. Stephen Paulus

*"Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.*

*"Hither, page, and stand by me, if you know it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."*

*"Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,
You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither."
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the cold wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.*

*"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,
You shall find the winter's rage freeze your blood less coldly."*

*In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, while God's gifts possessing,
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing."*

Text: John Mason Neale (1853)

Choir I

Lighting the Advent Candle

Andrea and Emily Folan

One: Today we prepare to welcome the Christ Child – in all of his glory – into our life.

Many: He is the Mighty Counselor, welcoming our questions, embracing our problems; he is the Mighty God and Prince of Peace, signaling the start of a new era in human history.

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we relight the candles of HOPE, LOVE, and JOY – and today we light the fourth candle of PEACE, to remind us of the deep peace that comes from knowing Christ.

One: Let us pray:

Many: Holy God, we are on the threshold of celebration, and perhaps at no other time have we needed the presence of Jesus as much as we do today.

Prepare us to welcome your Spirit in a new way; prepare our minds to recognize you in the world around us; prepare our hearts to feel your presence through song, prayer, hugs, smiles, and loved ones, we ask. Amen.

Song

While We Are Waiting, Come
Verse 4 (Music at the end of the bulletin)

WAITING

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14
from *The Message* translation

Andrea Folan

Special Music

What Child is This?

Arr. Stephen Paulus

*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?*

*Chorus: 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. [Chorus]*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him. [Chorus]"*

Text: W. Chatterton Dix

On Christmas Night

*On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring;
Refrain: News of great joy and of great mirth, tidings of our dear savior's birth.*

The King of Kings to us is giv'n, the Lord of earth and King of Heav'n; (Ref.)

Then how on earth can we be sad, when Jesus comes to make us glad? (Ref.)

From out the darkness have we light, which makes the angels sing this night: (Ref.)

Text: Luke Wadding

Choir II

Meditation

"The Music of Light"

Rev. Swift

Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

1. 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.

2. 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.

Text: Polish Carol, trans. Edith M.G. Reed

Choir II

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit come!
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Spirit, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

All Voices:

*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!"
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"*

Sopranos and Altos:

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.*

All Voices:

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"*

All Voices:

*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,
Ris'n with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
Hail the Sun of Righteousness, hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"*

Choir I

Benediction

Rev. Swift

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 608
Jason Cloen, organ

J.S. Bach

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
 2. Fill us with hope and love;
 3. Bring us your deep - est joy;
 4. Teach us your ways of peace;

while we are wait - ing, come.
 Fill us with hope and love;
 Bring us your deep - est joy;
 Teach us your ways of peace;

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

Stanzas 2, 3, 4 (c) 2020 by Deborah Fae Swift.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

A Special Thanks to . . .

Participants: Rev. Deb Swift, Andrea Folan, Jason Cloen, and Lee Wright

Choir I: Marrlee Burgess, Juli Elliot, Emmalouise St. Amand,
Brenda Tremblay, Ben Magruder, David Henkel, Jason Cloen,
Rob Kerner, and Alan Jones.

Choir II: Marrlee Burgess, Joan Sussman, Kathryn Borden, Carol Kerner,
Ben Magruder, Mark Darling, Jason Cloen, Rob Brown, Alan Jones

Strings: Tigran Vardanyan and An-Chi Lin, violins
Neil Miller, viola, Christopher Haritatos, cello, Eric J. Polenik, bass

Lee Wright, conductor

Sound Engineers: Donald Fairman, David McDowell, and Ben Magruder (Choral Music)
Website integration: Mark Anderson



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Priscilla and Rob Brown, and Carol Snook.

In addition to our Advent music, Donations to this fund support music on Easter and for our Jazz Worship in June.

Thank you for your generous contributions throughout the year!



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