



DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Celebration of Worship

December 22, 2024, 11:00 AM
Fourth Sunday of Advent
[Click Here to Listen](#)

*If you have a joy or concern you would like to have lifted in prayer today, please complete a **Prayer Request Card**, including the name of the person (and pronunciation) or event, and additional information you'd like to share. Prayer Requests will be collected in baskets during the **hymn following the sermon** to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

Prelude *Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring* J.S. Bach
Arr. Mark Hayes for piano duet

Words of Welcome Rev. Phil Davis

Announcements

Chime
*Introit While We Are Waiting, Come Don Cason
"While we are waiting, come; While we are waiting, come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.
With pow'r and glory, come...
Come, Savior, quickly come..."
Text: Claire Cloninger

*Call to Worship Nancy Brown
Leader: Love deeply, creating the wells of kinship,
People: For in the Body of Christ we belong.
Leader: Love boldly, like the spirited colors of a rainbow,
People: For in the Body of Christ we find peace.
Leader: Love joyfully, like the blissful songs in the wind,
People: For in the Body of Christ we claim our connections.

Invocation

All: Your face has shone upon us, O God, in the young woman who is with child. She will bear a son and name him Emmanuel, "God with us." Your presence shall be a source of comfort and guidance to all that call on your name. Your footsteps shall accompany us, your breath shall give us new life, your arms will console us, and your hands will be there to welcome us home. You are a God for all seasons. In these days leading to the birthday of your Son we ask that you will teach us yet again, how to worship you in Spirit and in truth It is in Jesus name and for his sake we pray together.

*Hymn

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper
(*Music may be found on page 8.*)

JEFFERSON

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

All: Divine Light and Love, We have been weighed down by the heaviness of the season, the sorrows carried from the past, and the expectations of the present and future. We hide in shadows instead of the light. We embrace individualism instead of basking in the joy of community love. Create a new path in our hearts so that we can find levity and grace. Reconnect us with the Body of Christ instead of the distressing comfort of spiritual solitude. Amen.

Words of Grace

Leader: The grace of God infinitely streams into our lives, drawing us from the shadows into the light, and reconnecting us again with our neighbors. May the mercy of our Creator help us rediscover the Spirit of Joy in our midst.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lighting of The Fourth Advent Candle of Love

Candles 1,2 and 3, Representing Hope and Peace and Joy

Liturgist: O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent and as we hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary, fill us with your grace and light. Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God's voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God's beckoning to us as well.

People: Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen.

All: Shine on us, O God of justice; Guide our path through gloom of night; Bear within us Wisdom's glory; Come to us, O Christ the Light.

Greetings from Executive Presbyter, Dr. John Odom

Scripture Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:39-45

Time for Young Disciples

Music for Meditation

Lost in the Night

Finnish Folk Tune

Arr. Kyle S. Haugen

*"Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
Longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
Plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish.
Will not day come soon?"*

*Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?
Shall those who have light no light let us borrow,
Giving no heed to our burden of sorrow?
Will you help us soon?"*

*Sorrowing wand'ers, in darkness yet dwelling,
Dawned has the day of a radiance excelling,
Death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling.
Christ is coming soon!"*

Scripture

Luke 1:47-55

Sermon

Listen To The Angels

Rev. Phil Davis

An Advent Tradition It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

CAROL

*During the introduction of the carol, you may wish to move to a place in the sanctuary from where you can see the angel windows in the back of the church while you sing verses 1,2, and 4.)
(Music may be found on page 7.)*

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Before the Marvel of this Night

Carl Schalk

*"Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light, and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!
Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!
The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!"*

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda

*Doxology Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN
(*Music may be found on page 10.*)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Felix Mendelssohn
Arr. Joel Raney for piano duet

*Passing of the Peace
The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Thank you to:

Liturgist: Nancy Brown
Chancel Choir Members
Soprano: Nicole Knickerbocker, Lindsey Puc, Carolina Sullivan, Joan Sussman
Alto: Cecelia Allchin, Isabella Apodaca, Leah Rosenman
Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Mark Darling, Evan McMahon
Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHority, Elijah Gebers,
Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd, Sumner Tessier

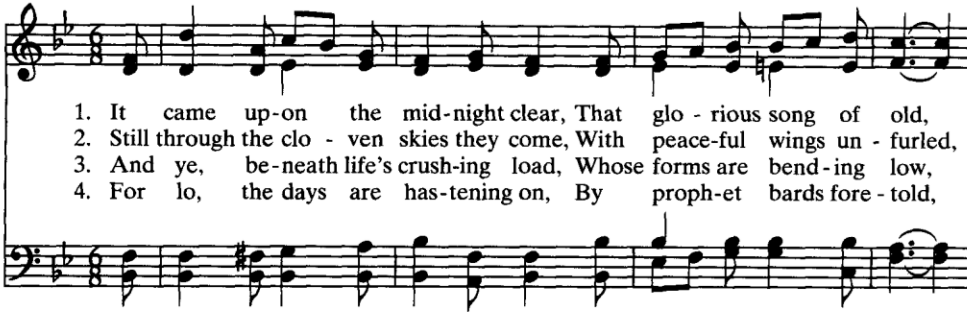
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

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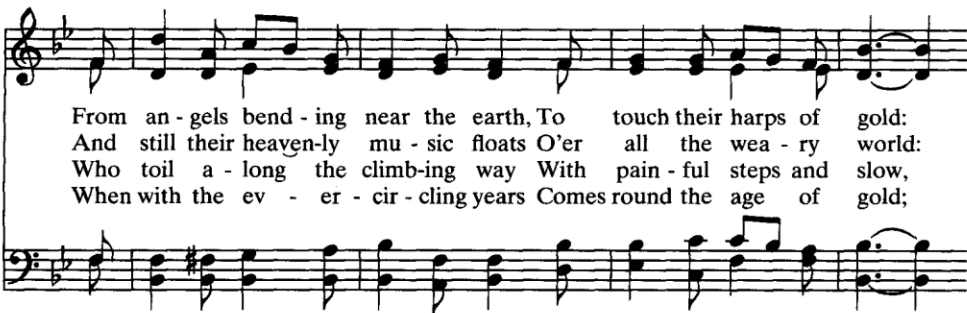
CAROL CMD

Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849

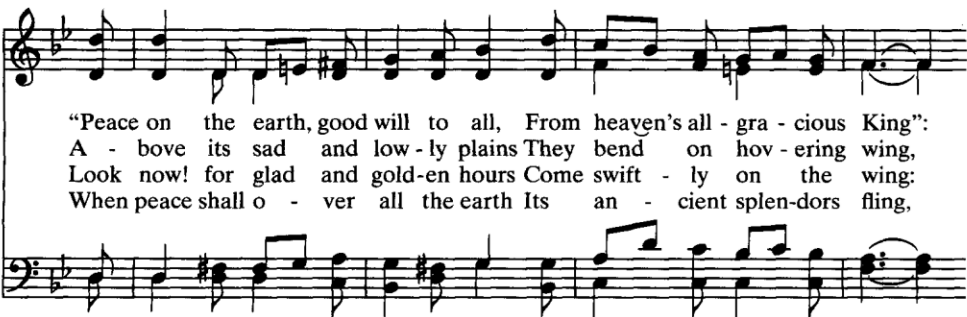
Richard Storrs Willis, 1850



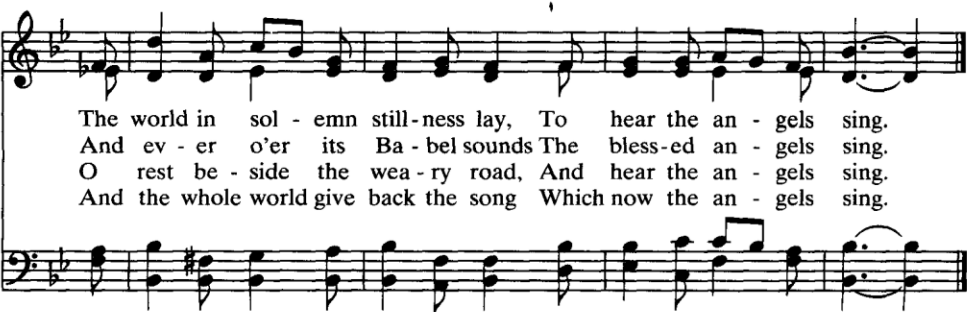
1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, Whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo, the days are has-tening on, By proph-et bards fore - told,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav-en-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world:
 Who toil a - long the climb-ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all - gra - cious King":
 A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing,
 Look now! for glad and gold-en hours Come swift - ly on the wing:
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless-ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing.
 And the whole world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2005

MUSIC: Alexander Johnson's *Tennessee Harmony*, 1818; harm. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978

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Music Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

JEFFERSON

8.7.8.7.D

plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to

neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

This Week at Downtown United Presbyterian

Sunday, December 22

10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship-Rev. Phil Davis
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Coffee Hour in Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

7:00PM Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day-Building Closed

Sunday, December 29

10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship-Rev. John Dehority
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Coffee Hour in Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MEDELSSOHN
7.7.7.7.D with refrain



Welcome Visitors!

Nursery Care for children up to 2nd Grade is available in the Library and can go out with the Sunday School teacher (see below).

Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the "Time with Our Children and Youth" for a brief time with the pastor. Parents are welcome to come up with their children if they would like. The children then will be taken to the Sunday School room by their teacher.

• **An asterisk indicates** "please rise in body or spirit."

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



+We seek to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position to utilize this option.

Joys and Concerns– If you have a joy or concern that you would like lifted in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request Card (available by the worship bulletins). The Cards will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the pastor.

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Do you have an interest in becoming a member of DUPC? You can speak with an Usher or the pastor. They would be happy to give you more information.

The Downtown Church Staff

Keisha Betts, Office Administrator
Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
The Rev. Philip B. Davis, Sr.,
Stated Supply Pastor
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
David Mear, Business Manager
Moses Nhial, Maintenance

Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper
& Receptionist Coordinator
Tyrone Reeves, Maintenance
Robin Sheikh, Sunday School Teacher
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet, Clerks of Session
Henry Ehindero, Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Philip B.
Davis, Moderator
Nancy Brown
David Lee
Bob Richane
Sally Allison
Sam King

Jim Vesper

Pat Tweet

Mary Rees

Deacons

Bob Carlisle
Andrea Folan
Elizabeth Katz
Elaine Johnson

Stephen Lloyd
Grania Marcus
Carol Samuel
Kelley Sheils
Marilyn Terpening
Sandy Morales
Helen Ganotis

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