



**The Order of Worship** **December 24, 2019**  
**11:00 P.M.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

*We welcome all to this service of worship, especially our visitors and guests. In the time before the service begins, we invite all who worship here to take a moment to offer a prayer lifting up to God the life and work of this family of faith and its pastors.*

**PROCURE A CANDLE IN THE NARTHEX**

**PRELUDE** Les mages Olivier Messiaen

*The Magi*

(from *La Nativité du Seigneur*)

“The Magi departed, and the star went before them.”

The Gospel according to Saint Matthew

**WELCOME AND INVOCATION** Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** The Gordon Family

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Daniel Lewis

Leader: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

**People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

Leader: And this shall be a sign for you.

**People: You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.**

Leader: And suddenly there was, with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God.

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.**

\*HYMN NO. 31 (blue hymnal) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *Mendelssohn*

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 96:1-6 Ruth Ann Bendy

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 96:7-13 Gloria Borum

\*HYMN NO. 40 (blue hymnal) Joy to the World! *Antioch*

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 9:2,6-7 Caroline McRae

**SCRIPTURE** Micah 5:2-5a Leah Milam

\*HYMN NO. 43 (blue hymnal) O Little Town of Bethlehem *Forest Green*

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:1-7 Maggie Gordon

**CAROLS** Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine German carol

arr. David Willcocks

Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, Help me cradle the child divine; God reward thee and all that’s thine In paradise, So prays the mother Mary. He came among us at Christmastide, In Bethlehem; Men shall bring him from far and wide Love’s diadem: Jesus, Lo he comes, and loves, and saves, and frees us!

Gladly, dear one, lady mine, Help I cradle this child of thine; God’s own light on us both shall shine In paradise, As prays the mother Mary. (Refrain)

Peace to all that have goodwill! God, who heaven and earth doth fill, Comes to turn us away from ill, And lies so still Within the crib of Mary. (Refrain)

All shall come and bow the knee; Wise and happy their souls shall be, Loving such a divinity, As all may see In Jesus, son of Mary. (Refrain)

trans. Neville Stuart Talbot

Sans Day Carol Traditional Cornish carol

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, And Mary bore Jesus who was wrapped up in silk: And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Savior for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, And Mary bore Jesus who died on the cross: (Refrain)

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, And Mary bore Jesus who died for us all: (Refrain)

Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red, Then trust we our Savior who rose from the dead: (Refrain)

Thomas Beard

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:8-14 Eric Adamcik

**CAROLS** Rejoice and Be Merry (A Gallery Carol) English carol

arr. Reginald Jacques

Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth! O praise our Redeemer, all mortals on earth! For this is the birthday of Jesus our King, Who brought us salvation—his praises we’ll sing!

A heavenly vision appeared in the sky; Vast numbers of angels the shepherds did spy, Proclaiming the birthday of Jesus our King, Who brought us salvation—his praises we’ll sing!

Likewise a bright star in the sky did appear, Which led the Wise Men from the east to draw near; They found the Messiah, sweet Jesus our King, Who brought us salvation—his praises we’ll sing!

And when they were come, they their treasures unfold, And unto him offered myrrh, incense, and gold. So blessed for ever be Jesus our King, Who brought us salvation—his praises we’ll sing!

Traditional

Joy Will Come At Christmas Vincent Persichetti

Joy will come at Christmas; Joy for us, O joy divine. He was born at Christmas time; Joy be yours and joy be mine.

Love will come at Christmas; Love for us, O love divine. He was born at Christmas time; Love be yours and love be mine.

Peace will come at Christmas; Peace for us, O peace divine. He was born at Christmas time; Peace be yours and peace be mine. Amen.

Anonymous

**SCRIPTURE** Hebrew 1:1-3; Matthew 12:46-50 Buran Phillips

**CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION** Buran Phillips

\*HYMN NO. 41 (blue hymnal) O Come, All Ye Faithful *Adeste fideles*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Tonight we will be celebrating Holy Communion by the method of intinction, where worshipers may come forward and take a piece of bread to dip into the cup. The ministers and ushers will direct you.*

**MUSIC FOR COMMUNION** There Is No Rose John Dunstable

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu; *Alleluia.*

For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space; *Res miranda* [Wonderful thing].

By that rose we may well see That he is God in persons three; *Pari forma* [Equal in form].

The angels sungen the shepherds to: Gloria in excelsis Deo: *Gaudeamus* [Let us rejoice].

Leave we all this worldly mirth; And follow we this joyful birth; *Transeamus* [Let us follow].

Anonymous, 14<sup>th</sup> century

**SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING...**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:15-20 Mary Jo Mann

*After the scripture is read, the lights will be dimmed, and the minister will light a candle from the Christ Candle. The minister will then light the candles of the ushers, who will then light the candles of the first person on each aisle. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright and the unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted candle.*

\*HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night *Stille Nacht*

*(The candle is held close to the breast)*

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.

*(The candle is extended outward)*

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar.  
Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”

*(The candle is extended upward)*

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.

*Following the singing of Silent Night, Holy Night, the minister shall lead a silent recessional to carry the light outside, weather permitting. After everyone has gathered, we will sing the first verse of “O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

**\*HYMN** O Come, All Ye Faithful *Adeste fideles*  
O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore  
Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

**\*BENEDICTION**

\*Indicates standing.

Please use extreme caution in the handling of the lighted candles to prevent accidents with the hair or clothing of the person in front of you and the pews. Children must be carefully supervised. For safety’s sake, it is requested that children under six should “share” their parents candle.

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**Symbolism of the Lights**

The significance of the Candlelight Service is twofold. First, in the distribution of the lights, we see dramatized before us the spreading of the Gospel Message and the growth of the church through the centuries. The pastor’s candle is symbolic of Christ, the living Word, and is an extension of the Christ candle in the Advent wreath. The ushers who carry the light to the congregation represent the Apostles whom Christ sent out to spread the Word and draw the world to Him. The church has grown because men and women and young people who have heard the Good News have been faithful in telling someone else about it, and this is symbolized by your passing the light to the person beside you. The ushers will light the candle closest to the aisle. As each candle bursts into flame and the sanctuary gradually brightens, we catch the significance of Jesus’ statement that we are “the light of the world,” and that we should spread this light to the “very ends of the world.” Secondly, we find significance in the lights during the singing of the dedication hymn. During the singing of the first verse, we hold our lights close as we rededicate ourselves to Christ. As we sing the second verse, we hold the candle out in front of us as we rededicate our homes and families once again to him. During the last verse, we hold our candles high as we rededicate our part of His church here to the task of taking the Gospel Light to every corner of the earth. After the Benediction, please extinguish your light. Receptacles for the spent candles are located in the narthex.

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Chancel Choir

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE:** We will have one worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 29. Our regular schedule resumes January 5<sup>th</sup>, with worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

**TONIGHT’S PRELUDE** invites us to imagine the journey of the Magi, though not by means of traditional musical forms or harmonies. Instead, we enter a world of colors, imagery, feelings, and mysticism. This work will require a different, more objective way of listening, but as I live with this piece, it continually and quietly reveals more and more depth and profundity. I sincerely hope it will transport each of you to a deeper understanding of the Magi’s faith in following the star as they traveled to Bethlehem to worship and adore the Child. Quoting from the overview of Olivier Latry’s recording of the complete works of Messiaen: “Liturgical music celebrates God in his church,” Messiaen said in a lecture given at the Cathedral of Notre Dame. “Religious music reveals him at all hours and all across our planet Earth, in our mountains and oceans, among the birds, flowers and trees, and even in the visible universe of stars that surrounds us.” Aside from his highly cerebral compositional skill and all its complexity, including his own modes of limited transposition (essentially scales with non-conventional patterns of whole and half steps), his writing vividly evokes what the titles depict. In *Les mages*, it has been interpreted that the pedal line depicts the star and that the descending chords in the right hand represent the long, winding journey of the Magi (the chords are in three parts and grouped in threes, on several levels), accompanied by sustained, calm, and even hypnotic chords in the left hand, suggesting meditation as they traveled through the night. At the conclusion of the work, as they reach the manger, all three textures join (pedal and the two manuals) in a single chord.

Peter Van Eenam

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be open Monday, December 30 from 9-5 and Tuesday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Regular office hours resume on Wednesday, January 2.

**FINAL 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS** as well as any 2020 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 31. All offerings received by December 31 will be included in your 2019 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wiesehuegel.

**Advent Flowers 2019**

*We would like to thank everyone for their contributions to our Flower Guild during this Advent Season.*

Ellen and Ken Anderson . . . . . In honor of WPC Music Ministry  
for the inspiration they bring us  
Laura and Jack Barron . . . . . In honor of their granddaughter Lillie and  
her husband Daniel, and three great granddaughters  
Susan Baughman . . . . . In honor of Peter Van Eenam and choral and instrumental  
musicians who provide us with such beautiful and worshipful music  
Carol Beilharz, children and grandchildren . . . . . In loving memory of Clark  
Berta Bergia and Alice Magee . . . . . In memory of Victor and Berta Bergia  
and Laura Magee  
Jim and Mary Boyd . . . . . In memory of Andrew Boyd  
Tom and Georgann Byerley . . . . . In memory of their parents:  
Miriam and Burney Overton and Mary and Henry Byerley  
Jane and Mike Casey . . . . . In memory of Ralph and Virginia Nichols  
Christmas Drama Children and Youth . . . . . In memory of Lisa Kaufman  
Barbara Cline . . . . . In honor of Lisa and Dan, Gabe and Jeff,  
Faith, Ed and Ari and remembering Jennings  
Anne Davidson . . . . . In memory of David Traver and Lynn Davidson  
The Dean Family . . . . . In memory of Scott, Carter and Mimi

Christie Dowling . . . . . In memory of her mother Betty M. Caldwell  
Shirley and Jack Draper . . . . . In honor of Mary Van Beke  
Melissa and James Everett . . . . . In memory of Margie and Hardy Noland  
Carol, Scott and Olivia Faulkner . . . . . In memory of Kenneth L. Faulkner  
The Fuller and Gibbons Family . . . . . In memory of Ernie Fuller  
Donnie and Connie Graham . . . . . In honor of their family  
The Adam and Amy Hahn Family . . . . . In memory of Gigi and Grandpa George Wallace  
John and Betty Hanes . . . . . In memory of Betty Salsbery Campbell  
Gary, Katherine, CJ and Nathan Harmon . . . . . In memory of their parents,  
Jim and Lucille Harmon, and John and Barbara Goan  
Leslie Hull and Family . . . . . In memory of Amy Hull Ransdell and  
Emma Kathryn Ransdell  
Anne and John Langley . . . . . In memory of their parents, John’s sister and brother,  
and Dollye Eleese Walters  
The Mackay and Harrison Families . . . . . In memory of Maxine Van Eenam  
Ed, Cile, Hannah and Eva Mathews, Danielle Hemsley . . . . .  
In memory of Matt Mathews  
Norman, Linda Judge and Caroline McRae . . . . . In memory of their parents and  
grandparents: Huel McRae, Sam and Christine Judge;  
and in honor of Leoan McRae  
Ibbie and John Muntz . . . . . In memory of their parents, George and Mildered Jack,  
Harold and Laura Muntz, and their brothers, Curtis Jack and Paul Muntz  
Cindy and Brad Pearman . . . . . In memory and honor of their parents  
Rick and Janice Rawe . . . . . In honor of their granddaughters,  
Nina Theiss, Margaret and Samantha Rawe  
Elizabeth Ridley . . . . . In honor of Virginia Jo Ballard  
Tim and Joyce Ryan, Matt and Tiffany Ryan, Chandler, Camryn, Conner and  
Lauren and Brandon Bice, Josie . . . . . In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Paul V. Ryan and  
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney E. Bowman  
John and Elizabeth Salsbery . . . . . In honor of Jim and Linda Yates and  
in memory of Chris Salsbery, Betty Campbell, Joe Ben Turner  
Chris, Rachel, Brooke and Addie Taylor . . . . . In memory of Jim and Flip Schmid, and  
in honor of Jay and Debbie Schmid  
Kathleen and Larry Tragesser . . . . . In honor of Laura, Amy, Chloe and Lacey and  
in memory of Justine and George Dukas, Clovis and Gene Tragesser  
Penny Tschantz . . . . . In honor of Westminster’s generous congregation  
Robin, Joel, Ashley, Mike, Nathalie and Bennett Turner . . . . .  
In memory of Joe Ben Turner  
Richard and Kay Ward . . . . . In honor of Dick Ward  
Bill and Renee Wiesehuegel . . . . . In memory of our mothers, Natalie Smith and  
Shirley Jean Rechenbach and in honor of Holly, Bobby,  
Ruby Jean, Lynlee Jo, Jonathan and Lacy  
Jim and Linda Yates . . . . . In memory of Joe Ben Turner, Bob Cantrell, Chris Salsbery,  
Betty Salsbery Campbell, Barbara and Fritz Schilling, Maxine Van Eenam

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