

A Candlelight Service

of Nine Lessons and Carols

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Sumner

December 24, 2021

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day”

Wagner

The Service of Preparation

SOLO

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Christine Bartell, Soprano

CALL TO WORSHIP

CAROL 133

“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.

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest: [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dr. Sumner

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jeff and Mary Ann Sumner

PRAYER

(Unison)

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desire from every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven. For Jesus’ sake. Amen. (R.L. Stevenson)

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7

Isaiah's prophecy about the coming of the Prince of Peace.

CAROL 88 "O Come O Come Emmanuel"

vs. 1,6,7

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirit by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight. [Refrain]

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

ANTHEM "Come Dear Child of Christmas"

Chancel Choir

THE THIRD LESSON

Micah 5

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

CAROL 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
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.

vs. 1,3, & 4

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

THE FOURTH LESSON

St. Luke 1

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CAROL 101 "No Wind at the Window"

No wind at the window, no knock on the door; no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor; no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear; just an angel and a woman and voice in her ear.

"O Mary, O Mary, don't hide from my face. Be glad that you're favored and filled with God's grace. The time for redeeming the world has begun, and you are requested to mother God's Son."

"This child must be born that the kingdom might come; salvation for many, destruction for some; both end and beginning, both message and sign; both victor and victim, both yours and divine."

No payment was promised, no promises made; no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed. Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess, replied with conviction, "Tell God I say, Yes."

THE FIFTH LESSON

St. Luke 2

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

CAROL 115 "Away in a Manger"

Mueller

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

THE SIXTH LESSON

St. Luke 2
Calvin Sumner

The angel appears to the shepherds.

CAROL 113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

THE SEVENTH LESSON

St. Luke 2

The angel announces the birth of Christ.

ANTHEM

“Sussex Carol”

THE EIGHTH LESSON

St. Matthew 2

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL 119

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
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. [Refrain]

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Jesu Bambino”

Erma Gilliam, Soloist

*RESPONSE

Hymn 145, verse 3

Greensleeves

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

SOLO

“O Holy Night”

Dr. Norton Christeson

The Service of the Candlelight

(If you have prepared a candle you have safely near you, wait until the minister lights his candle from the Christ Candle, then light your candle as we sing “Silent Night.” We will all extinguish our candles as we finish singing.)

CAROL No. 122 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

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.

May you have a safe, healthy, and merry Christmas.

POSTLUDE

“Entree pour Nole”

Pepin

ORGANIST: Kendra Cochenour

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Dr. Norton Christeson

LITURGIST: Mary Ann Sumner

LIGHT CONTROLLER: Eric Lindfors

ACOLYTE: Janet Lindfors

VIDEOGRAPHER: Kristin Downer

GIFTS CREDITED FOR 2021 will be welcomed until 11 a.m. on December 31st.

GIVING TO WESTMINSTER: Gifts are gratefully received and carefully used. They may be given in cash, by check, by credit card (Through our website www.wbts.org) by stock gifts (call the Office for details) or by bequest in your will. Consider the way(s) you will support Westminster By-The-Sea Church!

SUNDAY, December 26, Service at 11. No Sunday School.

OFFERING envelope boxes are available in Fellowship Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 26th First Sunday in the 12 Days of Christmas

JANUARY 2nd New Year Holy Communion, 8:45 & 11.00

JANUARY 9th 8:45 & 11:00 worship

**JANUARY 16th 8:45 Scottish Heritage Service
11:00 Kirkin' o the Tartans!**

UPCOMING OFFICE HOURS

DECEMBER 27 OFFICE CLOSED

**DECEMBER 28 – 31 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
(Deadline for money to be dropped off to count for 2021 is 11 a.m. on December 31st.)**