



Christmas Eve Pageant

Worship Service

Sunday, December 24, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

*You are invited to stand, if able.
You are encouraged to read/sing the **bold** print.

PRELUDE: A Medley of Carols

CHRIS NESS

WELCOME

Hewitt Holmes

CALL TO WORSHIP:

- One:** Come good friends, come to Bethlehem!
All: **Come to Bethlehem, and celebrate a new-born child with Mary and Joseph.**
Women & Girls: Come to Bethlehem, and rejoice that God's symbol of love is a tiny, helpless baby.
Men & Boys: Come to Bethlehem, and sing praises with the shepherds for what God has done.
All: **Jesus is born, God's Word lives! Praise be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

***OPENING CAROL:** VU#38 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gl-o-ria, in excelsis Deo! Gl-o-ria, in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? R
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R

ADVENT WREATH: THE CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING

Hambrook Family

***CANDLE CAROL:** VU#6 "A Candle Is Burning" (v 5)

AWAY IN A MANGER

We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the world's true light.

PRAYER OF CHRISTMAS THANKSGIVING:

Thank you, Loving God, for Christmas.

Thank you for gifts and for decorations. Thank you for family, friends, and visitors.

Thank you for good food and drink. Thank you for the opportunity to give to

Thank you for Jesus Christ.

**His teaching were so practical, his acceptance of the poor and vulnerable so willing,
his opposition to evil so total, his relationship with God so firm.**

Thank you for Jesus Christ,

who is with us this day! Amen.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(Traditional version with inclusive language)*

VU, pg. 921

* **CAROL:** VU#60 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vv. 1-3)

ADESTE FIDELES

1 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.*

2 God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created: R

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: R

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-14 (NIV)

Carson Manuel

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Here what the Spirit is saying to the Church, **we will listen to the Spirit today!**

WE GIVE AND CARE

Offering Music:

CHRIS NESS

*Offering Response: MV#191 "What Can I do?"

WHAT CAN I DO?

What Can I do? What Can I bring?
What Can I say? What Can I Sing?
I'll Sing with Joy. I'll Say a Prayer.
I'll Bring my Love. I'll Do My Share.

*Offering Prayer

Hewitt Holmes

Joyfully, we sing praises to God's Precious One.

Joyfully, we hear the Christmas story, and find Jesus, come to stay.

Joyfully, we present our gifts for the work of Jesus today.

We give thanks to God, source of all joy. Amen.



... THE FIRST CHRISTMAS by Angela Yardy

(The congregation is asked to join in the music as indicated)

The Narrator: Today, we have lined up a Christmassy treat... To welcome in Jesus, the King of all Kings.

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
3. 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. (VU # 69)

The Narrator: Let's start with the moment in Luke ...If you'd been selected to raise God's own Son?

1. 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.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sins and enter in, be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel! (VU # 64)

The Narrator: Now we'll need the innkeepers ready and waiting? ... Where usually all of the animals fed.

1. While Shepherds watched their flock by night all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.

4. "The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid." (VU # 75)

The Narrator: Now Shepherds, it's your turn to listen... Christ the Lord's born in Bethlehem.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born. (VU # 67)

The Narrator: Back to the angels and shepherd's that night... Then go to the stable and that's where you'll stay.

- 1 **In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

- 2 **Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ. (VU # 55)**

The Narrator: Now Shepherd's get ready... Remember us Jesus, when you're on your throne.

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies. R

The Narrator: Now back to the Bible... And left King Herod to learn he'd been spurned!

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *R*

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *R (VU # 43)*

The Narrator: So, back to the Kings who had learned... We too can bring pleasure and joy to the earth.

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

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
*repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy. (VU # 59)*

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS *(to the pageant/cast)*

***BLESSING:**

Christ is born!
God's gentle power defeats powerlessness;
Christ is born!
God's loving power unfolds our fearlessness;
Christ is born!
God's Word comes home, and sends us out to serve with compassion.

***CLOSING CAROL:** We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

POSTLUDE

CHRIS NESS

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THE FIRST CHRISTMAS by Angela Yardy

CAST: Will C., Carson M., Brady B., Christy M., Stephen M., Aubrey M., Tyler, Claire, Jen, & Darcy D., John H, Anne S., Elliotte, Sharon S., Madison M., Mikayla M., Ben M., Mary Kay M., Abby M., Gillian M., Pam M., Emma P.

DIRECTORS: Lianne Patterson, Robin Milani and Laurie Crosson

AUDIO/VISUAL: Terry Tizzard

USHERS: Lynn Dolmage (c), Barb Bassett, Marnie & Phil Neale, Susan & Stephan Carrod, Peter Magill, Joan Fairbarn.

WORSHIP LEADER: Rev. Hewitt Holmes, Minister

INTERIM ORGANIST: Chris Ness

The Unending Christmas Story ...

By Angela Yardy of Angela's Poems

We've
often heard
the story of
Jesus and His birth.
We use the phrase quite
freely: "The Saviour of the earth!"
But do you know the meaning? And do you
know it's true?
And do you know the birth
of Jesus happened just for *you*?
And do you know He loves you,
and that is why he came? If there were
only *you* on earth, He still would do the same!
For yes, He
thinks *you're* worth it!
And yes, His love is real. And yes,
today, He knows exactly what it is you feel.
So don't just hear a story: He wants you to be part
Of this year's special chapter when you let Him in your heart.



Just open up and listen to what God has to say. Then be a part of the unending story, from today.

www.angelaspoems.com