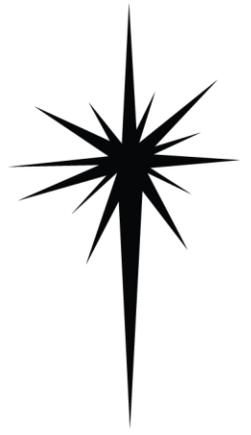


Children's Christmas Program

December 20, 2020, 11:15 a.m.



Gathering Song

Lights Are Being Strung Around the Houses

Words by Benjamin Milak, music by Ward Robak.

Preservice Music *Child Musicians*

Announcements *Vicar Jason Christ, Director of Attract & Middle School Ministries*

Welcome *Pastor Chuck Whited*

Preparing for Worship (Stand)

Leader The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

People **Amen.**

Leader In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. *John 1:1*

People **He was with God in the beginning.** *John 1:2*

Leader Through Him all things were made.

People **Without Him nothing was made that has been made.** *John 1:3*

Leader In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

People **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.** *John 1:5*

Leader The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

People **We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only.** *John 1:14a*

Leader Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

People **From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.** *John 1:14b, 16*

Leader The Law was given through Moses.

People **Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ!** *John 1:17*

Opening Songs *The fourth advent candle is lit, signifying the peace we have in Christ.*

It Came upon the Midnight Clear (Hymnal 366, verses 1-2)

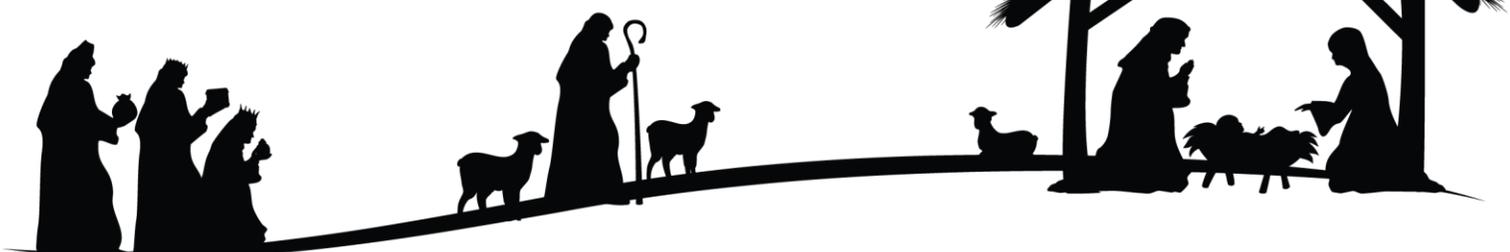
Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Verse 2

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

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O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verse 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

Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

Verse 3

How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

Verse 4

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.

*By Lewis Henry Redner, Phillips Brooks
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Confession and Absolution

Leader Simon Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

People **Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."** *Matthew 18:21-22*

Leader Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

People **And whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.**

Leader Anyone who does not love does not know God,

People **Because God is love.**

Leader In our sin, we do not love others, and we do not love God.

People **In His love, Jesus died and rose and forgives our sins.**

Leader And so we confess our sins to God:

People **I have sinned against God, and I have sinned against you, my neighbor.** *(Silence for reflection)*

Leader God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners,

People **Christ died for us.**

Leader We Love

People **Because He first loved us.**

Leader God, in His mercy, has forgiven our sins for Jesus' sake.

People **Amen.**

Scripture Readings *(Sit)*

- Reader God speaks to us through the Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5a *(NLT)* Reader: *Brayden Florio*
But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf. The people of Israel will be abandoned to their enemies until the woman in labor gives birth. Then at last his fellow countrymen will return from exile to their own land. And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD's strength, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. Then his people will live there undisturbed, for he will be highly honored around the world. And he will be the source of peace.
- Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: Luke 2:1-7 *(NLT)* Reader: *Addie Christ*
At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.
- Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: Luke 2:8-14 *(NLT)* Reader: *Madi Kopeck*
That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."
- Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: Luke 2:15-20 *(NLT)* Reader: *Lydia Reed*
When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.
- Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: Matthew 1:18-21 *(NLT)* Reader: *Matthew Schmutzler*
This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
- Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: Matthew 1:22-25 *(NLT)* Reader: *Brody Schmutzler*
All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Children's Program

The Apostles' Creed *(Stand)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(Sit)*

Offering *Give at FTGives.com or text "Give" to 716-710-8800.*

Welcome to My World *Solo: Sydney McHugh*

Prayers

Lord's Prayer *(Stand)*

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

Verse 2

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

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*Altar Flowers presented to the glory of God for David Young's 85th birthday
by Mary Ann Milak-Young.*

(Online) Blessing *(Those in the sanctuary will continue with the Lord's Supper)*

Preparation for Lord's Supper

Leader The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Leader On the night when He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, He gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take; eat; this is My Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People **And also with you.** *(Sit)*

We welcome to the Lord's Table baptized believers who confess their sins, affirm their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and who accept that Christ's body and blood are truly present in Holy Communion, given for the forgiveness of sins.

Songs During Lord's Supper

(Please take this time to silently reflect on the words.)

What Child Is This?

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Blessing

Sending Music *Worship Band*