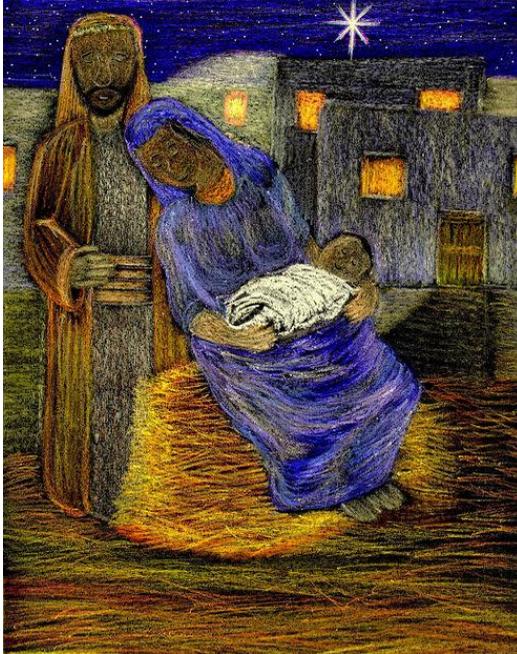


“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

December 24th

Christmas Eve



Prelude

Sans Day Carol, Cornish carol, arr. John Rutter

Welcome and announcements

Call to Worship and Approach to God

In David's town
Of David's line

Jesus Christ our Saviour

God clothed in flesh
Bone of our bone

Jesus Christ our Saviour

Promised of old
Here in our midst

Jesus Christ our Saviour

Hymn and lighting of advent candles:

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in your streets is shining
The everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in you tonight.
2. O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
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.
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.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer

(but please say this in whichever language or version you prefer.)

Our Father, which 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, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Hymn:

1. 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
2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!
3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

The Word of God

First Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Choir

Still, Still, Still, Austrian carol, arr. Norman Luboff
Kate Wareham, flute

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:4-11

Hymn:

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 Almighty, Jesus Christ.
3. Enough for him who cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk
and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him whom angels
fall down before
the ox and ass and camel which adore.
4. Angels and archangels
may have worshipped there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air,
but only his mother
in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.
5. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Sermon *Registered*

followed by pause for reflection

Response to the Word

Hymn:

1. See in yonder manger low,
born for us on earth below,
see! The tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemptions happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
2. Lo! Within a manger lies,
he who built the starry skies,
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn...'
3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the holy mountain steep?
Hail, thou ever blessèd morn,
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
4. 'As we watched at dead of night,
lo! We saw a wondrous light:
angels, singing peace on earth,
told us of the Saviour's birth.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn...

Please turn over ->

5. Sacred infant, all Divine,
 what a tender love was thine,
 thus to come from highest bliss
 down to such a world as this!
Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemptions happy dawn! !
Sing through all Jerusalem,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!' ,

Prayers of Intercession

Offering and dedication *E La Don Don*, Spanish carol, 16th c, anon

Hymn

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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:
 <i>O come let us adore him,</i>
 <i>O come let us adore him,</i>
 <i>O come let us adore him,</i>
 <i>Christ the Lord.</i></p> | <p>3. Sing, choirs of angels,
 sing in exaltation,
 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
 'Glory to God
 in the highest':
 <i>O come let us adore him,</i>
 <i>O come let us adore him,</i>
 <i>O come let us adore him,</i>
 <i>Christ the Lord.</i></p> |
| <p>2. God of God,
 Light of light,
 Lo! he abhors not the virgin womb;
 Very God,
 Begotten not created:
 <i>O come let us adore him...</i></p> | <p>4. Yea, Lord we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given:
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing:
 <i>O come let us adore him....</i></p> |

The Blessing (*Sung Amen*)

Postlude In Dulci Jubilo; How Brightly Shines the Morning Star, J.S. Bach

*The congregation is asked to remain in place until the Minister
 and Choir members have left the Church.*

Please turn off your mobile phone during the service.

The Service is conducted by our minister, Rev Dr Lance Stone.

The readers are Valerie Robillard and Jared Penner. Prayers of intercession are led by our Scriba, Heleen Koning. Office-bearers on duty are Heleen Koning and Jaap Maas.
