

Fill the night with Music and Light!

Christmas Eve 2020

Prince of Peace

I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

From "*The Mood of Christmas...*"
—by Howard Thurman

Welcome

In the season leading up to this night, we have been hearing the Good News from all the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John because we have *needed* good news and that's what "Gospel" actually means. We have heard stories of courage all along our journey—of people who have sung out songs of hope, love, joy, and peace. Even our blue luminaria have been a witness to the light we believe has come, and is coming.

Tonight we return to the story of Jesus' birth as it is told in the Gospel of Luke. This is the night we have been waiting for. So let's begin:

Song: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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!
Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God...In the highest:
 O, come let us adore him,
 O, come let us adore him,
 O, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

It is time to say NO!

And here is God's YES!

The Christmas Story

*But even when they did wrong, even then God loved them.
God kept sending messengers, but people need more than messengers.
We need God.*

Sing: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall come to you, O Israel!

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

Song: "My Soul Magnifies the Lord"

And when Caesar called for a tax Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem to be counted, to the town of his ancestor David.

Sing: 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.

And she gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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

Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel singing praises to God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all."

Song: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the new born king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Song: "Run, Shepherds!"

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard

and seen, as it had been told them.

Song: “O Holy, Night”

Please join in on the third verse:

Truly he taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord, O praise his name forever.
His power and glory ever more proclaim,
His power and glory ever more proclaim.

And now is the time to bring our lives and our prayers before God.

Prayers of us all—each prayer will end with: *Lord in your mercy.*
the response is: *Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray together in the words that Jesus taught us:

**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;
and 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**

The Peace of the Lord

Announcements:

Sunday Dec. 27 Join us on Facebook for a service of Lessons and Carols at 9:30 AM

In January and February you can watch our worship services on Facebook each Sunday at 9:30 AM. We hope to be able to gather together safely later in the New Year!

Keeping Christmas: don't forget the "Welcome Christmas Great Bell Ring" tonight at 6 PM and the porch/patio/deck/open window candlelight "Silent Night" sing. Help fill the night with music and light!

Candlelight Carol

(The church is darkened. Light your candle!)

Song: "Silent Night"

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| <p>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.</p> | <p>3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at your birth,
Jesus, Lord at your birth.</p> |
| <p>2. 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!</p> | |

Candlelight Prayer: I will light candles this Christmas

Lights on and get ready to face the world with just a few more NOs!

Blessing

May Almighty God,
Who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
Proclaimed joy through the angels,
Sent the shepherds with good news,
And led the wise men by a star,
Bless you this day through the word made flesh.

Amen

Song: "Joy to the World!"

1. Joy to the word, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and flood, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessing flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found!

4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love,

Dismissal: A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude