



*To you is born this day
in the city of David a
Savior, who is the
Messiah....*

Luke 2:11

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS, COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Dr. Ric Neese, Pastor

December 24, 2006

Six o'clock

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

As shepherds watch their flocks, God's glory shines on them; they hear the angel say, "Be not afraid." A star will guide them to where a birth has occurred. Full of joy, they will behold an event that promises peace on earth. Today, followers still gather to celebrate what happened: God brought forth Jesus, whose cause was righteousness. The everlasting response has been to rejoice and be glad.

Prelude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sang
Jeannine Cansler, Organist

arr. John Leavitt

Lighting of the Christ Candle

David & Jeannine Jordan

The Call to Worship

From Isaiah 9:2, 6

Leader: O come, ye faithful; come and behold.

People: For the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Leader: Those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them has the light shined.

People: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

Leader: And his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"!

***A Carol of Invitation**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn #41

John Francis Wade, a devout Roman Catholic Englishman who lived for many years as a political exile in Douay, France, wrote this beloved Christmas hymn sometime around 1743.

The Christmas Litany

Leader: As the Lord Jesus once came in love and great poverty to be born a child in Bethlehem,

People: So now he comes to us in the richness of his word.

Leader: As Jesus once came from heaven to live with people in love,
People: So now he comes in the word, to give the light of the spirit.

Leader: As he came to heal, to forgive, and to save,
People: So now he comes to rescue, to relieve, and to love.

Leader: As he came to serve people in the depths of their need.
People: Help us, O Lord, to give our life in love to the world.

Leader: O Jesus, give yourself to us again this year, this Christmas eve,
by the power of your word.

All: Grant us faith, joy and power to bring your light and love to others. Amen.

The Glory of the Lord Revealed

Isaiah 40:1-5

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” — **Hymn #8**

We sing an Advent hymn of invitation based on Psalm 24 that invites us to “fling wide the portals of our heart” to receive the Savior who is “drawing near.”

The Journey

Luke 2:1-5

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” — **Hymn #44**

The text of this much-loved carol was inspired by Phillips Brooks’ visit to the Holy Land in 1865. Brooks was rector of Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia and wrote these verses for the children in his Sunday School. The tune was written at Brooks’ request by Lewis Redner, the organist of Holy Trinity Church, who also was the Sunday School superintendent.

The carol was first sung at Holy Trinity’s Christmas service in 1868.

The Birth

Luke 2:6-7

“What Child Is This” **#53**

“Away in a Manger” **#25**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” **#37**

We sing a trio of carols that focus on Jesus’ birth in a Bethlehem manger.

“What Child Is This” is part of a longer Christmas poem written by William Dix about 1865. Dix was a surgeon’s son, and manager of a marine insurance company in Glasgow, Scotland.

The text for “Away in a Manger” was long attributed to Martin Luther, but most music scholars now agree that it was written by an anonymous author in Pennsylvania during the 19th century.

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” is a lovely Polish carol that has been paraphrased into English by Edith Reed.

The Announcement

Luke 2:8-14

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” #38

“Angels We Have Heard on High” #23

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” #31

Our trio of carols speak of the angel’s announcement:

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” was published in 1849 and is one of the first carol-hymns written in America, the work of Pastor Edmund H. Sears.

“Angels We Have Heard on High” is an anonymous French carol first published in 1855. It has become one of America’s best known and loved Christmas carols.

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” was written by Charles Wesley, who along with his brother John, and George Whitfield were instrumental in founding the Methodist Church in England. The music is adapted from a work by Felix Mendelssohn.

Christmas Eve Meditation

“The Gift”

Pastor Ric Neese

Solo

“I Wonder As I Wander”

John Jacob Niles

Nita Arant

Celebration of The Lord’s Supper

What Child is This

arr. Harold deCou

Choral Carol

Who Is This Child?

Wagner

Chapel by the Sea Choir

Lighting of the Christmas Candles

Choral Anthem

Night of Silence

Kantor

Chapel by the Sea Choir

*“Silent Night, Holy Night”

#60

The original text was written by Joseph Mohr, assistant priest in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Upper Austria. Because of an organ breakdown, Mohr asked the organist, Franz Gruber, to set this text to music for choir, two voices and guitar just hours before the Christmas Eve service of 1818. Karl Mauracher of Zillerthal, who was repairing the organ, heard it and passed it on to others or it might well have been forgotten.

The Gift Received and Shared

*A Hymn of Joy

Joy to the World!

#40

Isaac Watt's paraphrase of the second half of Psalm 98 was published in 1719.

“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:10-12

*Postlude

Silent Night

Traditional

Depart Quietly in Christ's Peace

*Those who are able are invited to stand

Worship aids from James G. Kirk, *When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship Year B* (Philadelphia: The Geneva Press, 1984), pp. 26-7.



Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church

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The Reverend Dr. Richard C. Neese, Pastor

The Reverend Mr. James A. McAllister, Pastor Emeritus

Pastor's Office Hours—Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. to noon

Other times gladly by appointment

Serving the Lord's Supper

Don & Rachel Gillmann, Myron & Sandy Johnston

Candlelighters: Ric & Nancy Neese

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,
Heavenly 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.

Joy to the World!

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.

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.

CHRIST 
THE SAVIOR
is BORN!



Christmas Eve 2006
Lighting the Christ Candle
David & Jeannine Jordan



Leader Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

Response Why do we light this candle?

Leader Because it is the CHRIST candle.
Its light flickering in our sanctuary bids us come on the run
to see the mighty thing that God has done.
God, in Christ Jesus is reconciling the world to himself!

Response Let us pray:
Come Lord Jesus, we are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
You alone are the world's true hope!
Amen.

Leader Please join in singing a carol of greeting:

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."