



The Angel Appearing to the Shepherds, oil on canvas
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA
Thomas Cole (1801-1848), English

Order of Worship

Christmas Eve

Faith Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Welcome to worship at Faith Presbyterian Church! We are glad you are joining us this Christmas Eve. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubt, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you. As we begin our time together, take a few deep breaths and settle in, to make the transition from getting here to being here, and to prepare your mind and body for worship.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich

Prelude *I Saw Three Ships and Go Tell It on The Mountain*

Carols

Brass & Organ

Jesus What a Wonderful Child

Organ

Spiritual
(Lisa Cooke)

The Little Drummer Boy

Katherine Kennicott Davis
(1892-1980)

Mike Shirey, vocals and guitar

**Please rise in body or in spirit; unison parts are in bold.*

***Call to Worship**

Leanora Eubanks

On that night, the angels proclaimed:

Good news! Good news of great joy for everyone!

On that night, the shepherds exclaimed:

Good news? For us? Let us go and see what has been made known to us. Let us go to Bethlehem and see.

On that night, Mary pondered the miracle of her child's birth:

Emmanuel, God-with-us, a baby wrapped in cloth and cradled in hay to keep him warm against the cold.

On this night, we wonder too:

Good news? For us? Glory to God in the highest heaven! And on earth, peace among all people!

***Carol 133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Mighty God, you came to us in humility;

forgive us for focusing more on what we will get than on what we can give.

Prince of Peace, you came to us in poverty;

forgive our indifference to the suffering of the poor.

Everlasting Creator, you came that we might have life abundant;

forgive us for failing to protect creation.

Wonderful Counselor, you came offering mercy;

forgive our failure to extend grace to others.

Child of Bethlehem, as we celebrate your birth,

forgive us when we do not recognize you in those around us.

Come into our hearts as you came into the world – be born in us today.

We open ourselves to you in silent prayer...

Kyrie 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 4)*

ST. LOUIS

4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;
O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell; O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!"

Assurance of Grace

***Gloria 113** *Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain)*

GLORIA

Refrain
Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!" The word "Refrain" is written above the first system.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Burger and Gettier Families

A Moment with Faith Kids

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Music *Still, Still, Still*

arr. Philip Ledger
(1937-2012)

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Christmas Meditation

A Sign for You

Rev. Goodrich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Carol 123** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

Invitation to the Offering

If you wish to contribute online, please scan the QR code with your mobile device to be directed to Faith's online giving site.



Offertory *Glory to God in the Highest Heavens!*

Lloyd Larson
(b. 1954)

***Carol 144** *In the Bleak Midwinter* verse 4

CRANHAM

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...*The prayer continues, concluding with*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of Communion

In the sanctuary, you may either receive the juice by intinction (dip the bread in the cup), or in a sealed cup to take back to your pew. Please come forward by the center aisle and return by the outside aisle.

If you are at home, when the bread is broken, please break the bread. When the cup is poured, please pour it or touch the cup if you've already filled it. We give thanks that the Spirit is present wherever we are, knitting us together as the body of Christ in the world.

Anthem *Gesù bambino*

Ayanna Freelon, soprano
Kevin Webb, tenor

Pietro A. Yon
(1886-1943)

*Prayer after Communion

God of wonder: you surprised us with love, bridging heaven and earth to come to us in the Christ child. Now our eyes have seen the joy his birth makes possible in the warmth of this community; our ears have heard the angel choir sing; and our souls and bodies have been fed by the bread of life. Grant that we may grasp the truth and live it, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ and the world which he so loves. Amen.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

Sharing Of the Light

***Carol 122** *Silent Night*

STILLE NACHT

***Christmas Blessing**

***Carol 134** *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

Postlude *Flourish on "Joy to the World"*

Robert A. Hobby
(b. 1962)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Cat Goodrich, *Pastor*
Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music & Organist*
Leanora Eubanks, *Liturgist*
Chancel Choir
Ayanna Freelon, *Soloist*
Kevin Webb, *Soloist*
Mike Shirey, *Guitar and Vocals*
Brian Moten, *Trumpet*
Gerardo Granados, *Trumpet*
Caleb Barns, *Mellophone/Horn*
Micah Duckett, *Euphonium*
Tionne Blackwell, *Tuba*
Andy Fuller, *Audio & Camera*
Dawn Shirey, *Zoom Moderator & PowerPoint*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors are welcome at Faith – We are a community that seeks, stands, and serves together. If you would like to learn more about how to join us in that ministry by becoming a member of our congregation, email pastor Cat Goodrich, cgoodrich@faithpcbalt.org

Christmas Day – Join us tomorrow at 11:00 for casual service with scripture and carols. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater or even your jammies! Stay for lunch with your Faith family.

Kids are welcome at Faith! Our PRAYGROUND at the front of the sanctuary is for children 6 and younger during worship. There are books and quiet activities to keep hands busy so ears can listen, and it's close to the action so that our youngest members can experience the beauty of worship in a space that's just for them.

Wednesday Bible Study *11:00 a.m. on Zoom*

Join Cat every Wednesday to reflect on the coming Sunday's lectionary passage. All are welcome! The Bible Study will not meet on December 28.

The Forum *Sundays, 9:15 in the Woodmont Room and on Zoom*

January 8, 15, 22

The Forum will focus on gun violence and conflict in our city. Speakers from Baltimore Mediation Center, someone familiar with the Johns Hopkins gun violence research center, and a representative from the Northern District Police Department have been invited.

January 29-February 19

What is patience? Is it waiting for the passing of time? Is it endurance in the midst of pain and suffering? Is it tolerance or forbearance with self or others? Is it constancy in the face of discouragement? Is it constructive engagement with events or circumstances? Whatever it is, why is it in such short supply? This Forum will pursue these questions and explore why patience is a concern for faith and social justice. **Arthur Sutherland, PhD**, associate professor of theology at Loyola University will lead the Forum.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP
TOMORROW, CHRISTMAS DAY AT 11:00
AND TO A FESTIVE LUNCHEON FOLLOWING
WORSHIP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US!

