

Bible Fellowship Center
Grand Island, New York
Morning Worship and Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service
December 24, 2023
10:15 in the Morning

The Prelude

The Buffalo Strings

Welcome and Prayer

David Schmidt-organ / Wendy Baldwin-piano

Doxology and Scripture Reading Psalm 134

Praising the LORD in His House at Night. A Song of Ascents.

Psalm 134 ¹Behold, bless the LORD, all *you* servants of the LORD,
Who by night stand in the house of the LORD!

²Lift up your hands *in* the sanctuary, and bless the LORD.

³The LORD who made heaven and earth bless you from Zion!

The Carol

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem! (Chorus)

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb: Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity, Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. (Chorus)

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 men no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. (Chorus)

Chorus: Hark, the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King."

The Lighting of the Christ Candle The Announcement of the Birth of the Messiah

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulders. And He shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Pastoral Prayer of Adoration

The Choir

Christmas Grace

Ruth Elaine Schram

Lani Knapp - piano

The First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-5

John VanderMey

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from His roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him-the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord-and He will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes or decide by what He hears with His ears; but with

righteousness He will judge the needy, with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; with the breath of His lips, He will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be His belt and faithfulness the sash around His waist.

The Carol

Away in a Manger

Unknown

Away in a manger, No crib for a bed. The little Lord Jesus Lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay; The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus-No crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; Look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay Close by me forever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children In Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with You there.

The Second Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Micheal Boerschig

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Piano Solo

Joy to the World

Abby Budnack

The Third Lesson

Luke 2: 8-16

Jozef Moderacki

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

The Choir

Rise Up, Shepherd

Taylor Davis

Meditation

Largo from Winter Four Seasons

The Buffalo Strings

Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at *your* side. Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your *land*, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD. Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.'" Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains And the mountains in reply, Echo back their joyous strains. (Chorus)

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King. (Chorus)

See with-in a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth! Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, With us sing our Savior's Birth.

Chorus: Gloria in ex-cel-sis De-o: Gloria in ex-cel-sis De-o

The Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Dawn Fraser

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming

into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Carol

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Beethoven

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of light; Angels lifting praise before You sing throughout this holy night. In a manger lies a Baby Child of Mary, Son of God. Voices joined in joyful chorus praise You for Your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory; all creation joins to sing. Praise resounds as earth rejoices in the birth of Christ, the King. Shepherds kneel before the infant. Trumpets sound and anthems raise. As with joy our hearts are lifted, joined in wonder, love, and praise.

The Message

A Christmas Medley: Hope, Love and Peace

Rev. Calvin VanderMey

The Candle Lighting

(As the carol is sung, the lights are dimmed, and the pastor lights a candle. He then lights the candles of the candle lighters gathered in the pews. They in turn, light the candles of the first worshipper. The lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to be lighted.)

The Carol

Silent Night

Gruber

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, Shepherd 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.

BENEDICTION: May the Christ who by His incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill;
And the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

The Postlude

Spring Vivaldi

The Buffalo Strings

Direct link for offering to Bible Fellowship Center

