Order of Service  
Christmas Eve 2020

Pre-Service Music  9:45 pm  
Candlelight Service  10:00 pm

We believe, even now.

Pre-Service Music

“Veni, Veni, Emmanuel”  
Mara Stoll  
arr. Michael John Trotta

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”  
Kurtis Heinrich, soloist  
arr. Gloria Shayne

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”  
Mica Tharp, soloist  
arr. Ralph Blane

“Star of Bethlehem”  
Mara Stoll, vocalist  
John Williams

“Heaven Everywhere”  
Austin Shariff, Mark Saunders  
Tanya Sapp, and Amelia Lloyd  
vocalists  
arr. Andy Beck

Welcome  
Betsy
The Call

Merry Keller

In this Advent season leading up to this night, we have heard the Good News from a variety of voices and hearts: ancient prophets, gospel writers, our KUCC kids... We have heard stories of courage and faith that have led us to holy hope, love, joy, and peace. Our candles have been a witness to the light we believe has come, and is coming.

Chris Lucas

Tonight we return to the story of Jesus’ birth as it is told in the Gospel of Luke. This account is the narrative we read again and again on this holy night, for this author gives us the most beloved detail. We yearn to see the scene play out, to hear the music of the angels, to feel the rush to the manger to see what this star that pierces the night sky has come to proclaim. We so desire to believe the Good News of the messengers that is the culmination of humanity’s pain of birth: “don’t be afraid” for unto us a sign has come that will be to all people... “on earth, peace.”

“I Believe”
KUCC Virtual Choir

Mark Miller

Invocation

Joyce Haynes McCowan

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpse of heaven on earth
in the faces and the light of those around us.
   Even in the midst of fear,
   of challenge, of struggle—
even when our view is obscured
by clouds of doubt,
You have ignited the flame of hope, love, joy, and peace within us.

Let us glow with its brilliance
from the inside out. Amen.

Song
“O Come, All You Faithful” vv. 1 & 3
Page 6

Lighting of the Christ Candle
The Letchworth Family

Music
“Mary, Did You Know?”
Amelia Lloyd, vocalist

Readings and Carols
From Luke 2:1-20 (Common English Bible)
Evie Appel

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David’s house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
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 dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.
While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

“Away in a Manger”
Away in a manger; no crib for a 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.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!”
Joyful, all you saints arise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angel host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring!”

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.

“What Child is This?”
What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God’s holy offering;
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!

Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Meditation

Music
“O Holy Night”
Merry Keller, vocalist
Adolphe Charles Adam
arr. Mark Hayes
Sacrament of Holy Communion  

Betsy and Rev. Douglas Anders

Invitation

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to our God.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
For we are called to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer

O God of all imagining, how do you call us on this night?
We come to you just as we are:
your children,
full of both fear and love,
brokenness and hope,
confusion and clarity.

We come in search of grace and peace,
knowing it is from the wisdom of our Christ
that we might receive both in our lives.

Bless this bread and this cup from which we are about to partake.
May they fill us with the hope of you,
the insights of you,
the peace of you.

May we experience reconciliation leading to wholeness
so that we may be the example of your peace-filled possibilities,
Your presence in this world.
Amen, and amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Cup
(Participants are invited to have with them bread to nourish one’s body, and drink to quench one’s thirst. We will partake in the communion elements together.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God,
let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
May the Christmas morning make us inspired to be your children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake.
Amen.

Music

“Lux Aurumque”  
Mara Stoll and John Stoll, vocalists

Eric Whitacre
“Where the Light Begins”  Joyce Haynes McCowan

Perhaps it does not begin.
Perhaps it is always.

Perhaps it takes a lifetime to open our eyes,
to learn to see what has forever shimmered in front of us -

the luminous line
of the map in the dark,

the vigil flame
in the house of the heart,

the love so searing
we cannot keep from singing,
from crying out
in testimony and praise.

Perhaps this day will be the mountain
over which the dawn breaks.

Perhaps we will turn our face toward it,
toward what has been always.

Perhaps our eyes will finally open
in ancient recognition,
willingly dazzled, illuminated at last.

Perhaps this day
the light begins
in us.

Sharing the Light of Christ  “Silent Night, Holy Night”  Page 7

Commissioning and Benediction

Sending Forth Song  “Joy to the World!” vv. 1  Page 8

Postlude  Ron Bryant medley

Sources:
Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson, and adapted.
“Where the Light Begins” by Jan Richardson, in Circle of Grace, 2015, pp. 61-62.
1 A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri-um - phan - tes; ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
2 O come, all you faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O God of true God . . . Light of true Light . . .
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 A - men, Lord, we greet you, born this hap - py morn - ing;

Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lo - rum.
Come and be - hold the rul - er of all an - gels:
Tru - ly our God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
“Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est”;

Word of our God . . . now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come in ad - o - ra - tion, O come in ad - o - ra - tion,
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.
O come in ad - o - ra - tion; Christ is Lord!

The Latin text and tune of this familiar hymn are found together in several eighteenth-century manuscripts signed by John F. Wade. Wade lived among a group of English Catholic refugees in northern France.

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES Ir. with refrain
English melody, 18th century
John F. Wade’s Cantus Diversi, c. 1743
Harm. Collections of Motets or Antiphons, 1792
Silent Night, Holy Night

Joseph Mohr, 1818
Transl. John F. Young, c. 1863; alt.

Luke 2:1-20

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
Silent night, holy night, Child of God, love’s pure light,

Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Glorious stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Radiant beams from your holy face bring the dawn of redeeming grace;

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.
Jesus Christ at your birth, Jesus Christ at your birth.
Joy to the World!

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 98:4-9; Luke 2:11-15

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth its praises bring; Let every heard prepare Christ room, songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains nations prove The glories of God’s righteousness

2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns! Let all their and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, and wonders of God’s love, and wonders of God’s

3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and wonders of God’s love, and wonders of God’s

Stanza 1 may be sung, “Joy to the world: the Sovereign comes:...”

Isaac Watts, an English Congregationalist, freely paraphrased. Old Testament psalms to glorify Christ and here develop a hymn of advent and nativity from a psalm.

Tune: ANTIOCH C.M.
Lowell Mason, 1836