

***THE LESSON AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING**

John 1:1-14
F.R. "Buck" Files, Lector

As the Scripture is read, the individual candles will be lighted, beginning with the person in the center aisle. Please share the light by holding your lighted candle upright and allow your neighbor to "reach for the light" and thus avoid the possibility of dripping wax from the lighted candle.

***THE ANTHEM AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING**

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light
J. S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

(This chorale has been included in every Lovefeast celebration of this congregation since the first one in 1971.)

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning; Ye shepherds, shrink not with afright, but hear the angel's warning. This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

***THE CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Dr. Stuart Baskin

***THE CANDLE CAROL**

Silent night, holy night
STILLE NACHT

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.
2. 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."
3. 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.
4. 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.

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata on Adeste Fideles
Gordon Young



The 40th Annual Lovefeast Celebration

Friday, December 24, 2010
5:00 p.m. The Concert
5:30 p.m. The Celebration

Please switch off all cellular phones and pagers as you enter the Sanctuary for worship.
A professionally staffed nursery is available. Please ask an usher or greeter for directions.

The Concert

<i>Joy to the World</i>	The Rose City Brass Ensemble	G. F. Handel, arr. Allen
<i>The Christmas Angels</i>	The Campanella Handbell Choir	arr. Michael Helman
<i>Variations on Es kommt ein Schiff geladen</i>	Claudia Carroll, flute	Harald Rohlig
<i>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen</i>	The Rose City Brass Ensemble	English Carol, arr. Jack Gale
<i>Alleluia from Exsultate Jubilate</i>	Sarah Smith, soprano	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
<i>Ding, Dong, Merrily on High</i>	The Carillon Handbell Choir	French Carol, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
<i>Sweet Little Jesus Boy</i>	Martha Schmidt, soprano	Robert MacGimsey
<i>Fantasy on a French Carol</i>	The Carillon Handbell Choir	French Carol, arr. Hal Hopson
<i>Noël Nouvelet</i>	The Rose City Brass Ensemble	French Carol, arr. Keith Snell

The Celebration

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*THE PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

The Congregation remains standing and joins in singing the Hymn in Procession.

*THE HYMN IN PROCESSION

O come, all ye faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

1. 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.*
2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created;
Refrain
3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
Refrain
4. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
Refrain

The Congregation is seated following the Hymn in Procession.

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Stuart Baskin

THE INVITATORY ANTHEM

Puer Natus in Bethlehem

14th century plainsong, arr. Audrey Snyder

Translation of Latin text:

A boy is born in Bethlehem, alleluia; And joy is in Jerusalem, alleluia.

Our inmost hearts rejoice; Christ is born and we adore him with new and joyful song.

Though in a manger bed he lies, alleluia; He reigns until the end of time, alleluia.

We praise the Holy Trinity, alleluia; Let us give thanks to God today, alleluia.

As we regard this joyful birth, alleluia; We bless the Lord who came to earth, alleluia.

THE BLESSING AND PARTAKING OF THE FEAST

Traditional Moravian Blessing

The Rev. Marialice Billingsley

The Congregation prays in unison:

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be,
and bless these gifts, bestowed by thee. Amen.

THE ANTHEM AT THE PARTAKING OF THE FEAST

Christmas Night

John Rutter

Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light, clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas Night, round the stable where a virgin mother mild, watches over Jesus Christ the holy child. Shepherds kneel in adoration by his bed; seraphim in glory hover round his head. Wise men, guided by the leading of a star, bring him gifts of precious treasure from afar. Choirs of angels sing to greet his wondrous birth: Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth. "Glory to God in highest heaven" their joyful strain: "Peace on earth, goodwill to men" the glad refrain. Lullaby! The child lies sleeping: sing lullaby! Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby! Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day: Lullaby! Sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay. Alleluia! Let the earth rejoice today! Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away. Praise the Lord who sent him down from heaven above: Holy infant, born of God the Father's love.

Stephen Demsky, soloist

The Christmas Candles

*THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE CANDLES

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Hark! The herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN

1. 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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven 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.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen 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 newborn King!"

The Christmas Feast

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

The first Nowell
NOWELL

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| <p>1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p><i>Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.</i></p> | <p>3. This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p><i>Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.</i></p> |
| <p>2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>4. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood our life hath bought. <i>Refrain</i></p> |

THE INVITATION TO THE FEAST

The Rev. Pamela Leach

THE SERVING OF THE FEAST

As you receive the buns and napkins, please take one of each, then pass the basket along the pew toward the outside aisle. As you are served the chocolate, do likewise. Please wait to eat until the blessing has been said together. After the feast, please pass your napkin and cup to the outside aisle to be collected by the servers.

THE ANTHEMS AT THE SERVING OF THE FEAST

O little one sweet
German Chorale, arr. Johann Sebastian Bach

O little one sweet, O little one mild, Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled; Thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken, Equal to be with us poor men, O little one sweet, O little one mild. O little one sweet, O little one mild, With joy thou hast the whole world filled; Thou camest here from heav'n's domain, To bring men comfort in their pain, O little one sweet, O little one mild. O little one sweet, O little one mild, In thee Love's beauties are all distilled; Then light in us thy love's bright flame, That we may give thee back the same. O little one sweet, O little one mild.

Nativity Carol
John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, Born so long ago; Born 'neath light of star He who loved us so. Far away silent he lay, Born today, your homage pay, For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day. Cradled by mother so fair, Tender her lullaby; Over her son so dear Angel hosts fill the sky. Far away silent he lay, Born today, your homage pay, For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day. Love in that stable was born Into our hearts to flow; Innocent dreaming babe, Make me thy love to know. Far away silent he lay, Born today, your homage pay, For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.

The Christmas Story

✠ THE FIRST LESSON: THE BLESSING

Genesis 12:1-4
Larry Burks, Lector

THE ANTHEM

Sir Christèmas
William Mathias

Nowell, nowell. Who is there that singeth so, Nowell, nowell? I am here, Sir Christèmas. Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas! Welcome to all, both more and less! Come near, come near, Nowell, nowell. Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, tidings I you bring: A maid hath borne a child full young, Which causeth you to sing: Nowell, nowell. Christ is now born of a pure maid; In an ox-stall he is laid, Wherefore sing we at a brayde: Nowell, nowell. Buvez bien, buvez bien par toute la compagnie. Make good cheer and be right merry, And sing with us now joyfully: Nowell, Nowell. Nowell.

✠ THE SECOND LESSON: THE PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:2,6,7
Guinette Tell, Lector

THE ANTHEM

All me heart this night rejoices
Johann Georg Ebeling

All my heart this night rejoices, As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices; "Christ is born," their choirs are singing, Till the air, everywhere, now their joy is ringing. Hark! a voice from yonder manger, Soft and sweet, doth entreat, "Flee from woe and danger; Brethren, come; from all that grieves you, You are freed; all you need I will surely give you." Come, then, let us hasten yonder; Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder, Love Him Who with love is yearning; Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning. Thee, dear Lord, with heed I'll cherish; Live to Thee and with Thee, dying, shall not perish; But shall dwell with Thee for ever, Far on high, in the joy that can alter never.

The congregation remains seated for the singing of the carol.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Good Christian friends, rejoice
IN DULCI JUBILO

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| <p>1. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!</p> | <p>2. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!</p> | <p>3. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!</p> |
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✘ THE THIRD LESSON: THE ANNUNCIATION

Luke 1:26-38
Neil McKown, Lector

THE ANTHEM

I saw a maiden
Old Basque Noël, arr. Edgar Pettman

I saw a mayden sytten and sing. She lulled a childe, a sweete Lording. Lullay. Lullay, my dere son, my sweeting. Lullay, lullay, my dere herte, my own dere darling. That same Lord is he that made alle thing; Of lordes the Lord, of kynges the Kyng. There was mickle melody at that chyldes birth. And all in heaven's bliss, they made mickle mirth. Angels sang that night and saiden to that chyld; Now blest be thou and she, both meek and mild. Pray we to that childe and to his mother dere, His blessing to them that maken now cheer.

The congregation remains seated for the singing of the carol.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

O little town of Bethlehem
ST. LOUIS

1. 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.
2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

✘ THE FOURTH LESSON: THE BIRTH

Luke 2:1-7
Jim Hairston, Lector

THE ANTHEM

Sussex Carol
Traditional English Carol, arr. Sir David Wilcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring; News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth. Then why should men on earth be sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad: When from our sin He set us free, All for to gain our liberty. When sin departs before His grace, Then life and health come in its place; Angels and men with joy may sing, All for to see the newborn King. All out of darkness we have light Which made the angels sing this night; "Glory to God and peace to men, Now and forevermore. Amen."

The congregation stands for the singing of the carol.

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Joy to the world
ANTIOCH

1. 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.
2. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

✘ THE FIFTH LESSON: THE ANGELS AND THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8-20
The Rev. Marialice Billingsley, Lector

THE ANTHEM

Quem pastores laudavere
Michael Praetorius

Glory to Christ whom the shepherds praised, the shepherds to whom the angel said "Be not afraid, the King of glory is born." Now the glory of the angels has shone forth to men on earth; the Virgin Mother has newly given birth and brought joy, and the true sun has lightened the darkness. Christ is born today of a Virgin: a King is born without earthly father. Glory to Christ to whom the wise men came, bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh; they offered these gifts with true heart to the Lion of Judah. Today remission of our sins is granted: let guilty mankind rejoice. Light has shone from heaven, peace has now been restored, she who bore the Savior has remained sinless. Christ is born today of a Virgin: a King is born without earthly father. To Christ the King, Son of God, given to us through Mary, let praise, honour and glory worthily and truly resound. The great name of the Lord is Emmanuel, which means, God with us. Let us rejoice in the salvation of the Redeemer Lord; this is the day and the year of rejoicing. Children, raise your voices together and make music, sing with reverent voice and clap your hands.

Martha Schmidt, Cassie Hudson, Claudia Carroll and Karin Morrow, soloists
Sarah Smith, Cecily Luft, Andy Martinez and Bill Girard, quartet

The congregation remains seated for the singing of the carol.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Angels we have heard on high
GLORIA

1. 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.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

✘ THE SIXTH LESSON: THE INVITATION TO RESPOND TO GOD'S GIFT

1 John 4:7-11
The Rev. Pamela Leach, Lector

THE ANTHEM

Joys Seven
Traditional English Carol, arr. Stephen Cleobury

The first good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of one; To see the blessed Jesus Christ when he was first her son: When he was first her son, good man: and blessed may he be, Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of two; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of three; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the blind to see. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of four; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to read the Bible o'er. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of five; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to bring the dead alive. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of six; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, upon the crucifix. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of seven; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to wear the crown of heaven.