

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24, 2022

7 PM

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| Prelude Music | “Noel” | 19 th c melody; Dubois |
| | “Away in a Manger” | 18 th c; C. Murray |
| | Trio on “Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella” | 17 th c melody; arr Hegarty |
| | Variations on a Polish Carol | 16 th c melody; arr Ritter |
| | “Lo, How A Rose” | 15 th c melody; arr Martin |
| | “In Dulci Jubilo” | 14 th c melody; arr. Fox |

Welcome and Prayer

Pastor: Emmanuel: God, you are with us.

People: We have heard the promise of the prophets;

Pastor: We have caught the notes of an angel’s song;

People: We have seen the star in the heavens, and we have believed.

Pastor: Tonight we have come to be with you because you have come to be with us.

People: We seek an innocent, helpless baby in a crude manger;

Pastor: We seek a Messiah who will reign with justice;

People: And you, who are the weakest and the strongest, the most humble and the most mighty, have found us.

Pastor: Now we may find ourselves.

People: Now we may love each other, now we may truly worship you,

All: Crying aloud with the heavenly host: “Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth and goodwill among all people.” Amen.

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| Hymn | “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” | NCH # 143 |
| | On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring; On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring, News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our gracious Ruler’s birth. | |

Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin Christ set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

Lighting of the Advent Candles & Advent Song - “Light One Candle for Messiah”

Chancel Choir w/congregation singing the 5th verse

Wayne L. Wold/Yiddish Folk Tune Words © 1984 Fortress Press [onelicense # 859551]

Music arrangement © 2022 First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP)

Light five candles to welcome Messiah; God now with us, Emmanuel.
Angels sing at his humble coming, God’s light piercing earth’s darkness.

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| Advent Hymn | “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” | NCH # 126 |
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Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light; [Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of Nations, guided by Christ's natal star; [Refrain]

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly, your prayers attending, Christ beside you shall appear; [Refrain]

Scripture Reading
Isaiah 9:2-7

Maddie Mest

Poem

Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

NCH # 133

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.

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, and voices ring with peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.
No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin,
Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Poem

Special Music

"O Who's that Yonder?" Madeline Mest, soloist with Chancel Choir
2022 First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP)

Scripture Reading
Luke 2:1-20

Sandy Rowe

Meditation or Book Reading

Special Music "Ring the Bells" Lexi Foss, soprano soloist w/Chancel Choir
Harry Bollback © 1958 New Spring [CCLI #74279], Music arrangement by Dan Wolgemuth
Hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" NCH # 131

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, Great news of joy we bring."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Offering our Gifts - Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries
Help Fund. *The offering on Christmas Eve benefits Shenkel's Help Fund. Contributions to the Help Fund are used at the Pastor's discretion to provide emergency financial assistance for those in need. For more information, please contact the Pastor.*

Offertory "In the Bleak Midwinter" Dylan Quinn, Tenor Soloist
2010 First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP)-music arrangement [CCLI # 2399529-P.D]

Offering Response Christmas Doxology
Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,
Whose daystar shines for us on high,
Whose spirit brings into our sight
The hope which to our world draws nigh.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Litany of Remembrance and Consecration

Pastor: God of light, in whom there is no shadow, your gifts to us are from the very beginning of time.

People: They began with creation, when your Spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter, and when your word brought forth light on the face of the earth.

Pastor: They continued with our ancient ancestors, like Noah, whom you blessed with the colorful promise of the rainbow.

People: And like Sarah and Abraham, whom you blessed with a child whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the nations.

Pastor: In the desert, you gave the gifts of manna and of living water to the weary pilgrims whom you led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

People: At last, you sent your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and vulnerable, who grew to be the very Light of Light, full of grace and truth, revealing your glory on earth.

All: We thank you, O God, that you have sent Jesus Christ to bring life and immortality to light. Help us to receive your gifts with joy and humility: as we receive this bread and wine, may we open our hearts to receive your love and grace in Jesus Christ, and receive the love and support of one another. Be born among us, that we may give Christ's love to the world, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Special Music "O Holy Lamb of God" Joshua Giannini, Vocalist & Acoustic Guitar
Gary Sadler & Steven V. Taylor © 2000 New Spring [CCLI #3346718]

Celebration of Light

(Please receive the light from the ushers and pass the light to your neighbor. Tip only unlit candles to receive light from lighted candles.)

Hymn

"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, Darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing:
Alleluia! Hail the King!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**
**Silent night, holy night, Guiding Star, lend thy light!
See the eastern wise men bring**

***Gifts and homage to our King!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.***

***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.***

Christmas Benediction

Hymn

“Joy to the World!”

NCH # 132

Joy to the world, the Lord is come: let earth its praises bring:
Let every heart prepare Christ room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ:
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of God’s righteousness And wonders of God’s love,
And wonders of God’s love, And wonders, wonders, of God’s love.

Postlude Music

“Ukrainian Bell Carol”

20th c.; Leontovich

Worship Notes

Greetings to all persons who have traveled across miles to return home for Christmas: those who work in distant places, service persons, college students; and welcome to all guests, extended family, and friends who are here to worship with us this evening. May the good news of great joy resonate in all of our hearts as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child this day.

The staff of Shenkel UCC wishes you all a joyous and blessed Christmas!