



CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY  
DECEMBER 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM

PRELUDE: Pastorale (from the *Christmas Concerto*)  
John Finney, organ

*Archangelo Corelli*

CALL TO WORSHIP

For unto the world a child is born. God calls us now in this Christmas season to become new.  
To make room for our own nativity, even when there is no room at the inn.  
Where we are busy – peace.  
Where we are lost – salvation.  
Where we are sad – joy.  
Where we are bitter – love.  
Let this night be a time to accept with open hearts these gifts of God.  
Let us visit this newborn child of God and bring gifts of praise.  
Let us go to Bethlehem!

CAROL: Hark the Herald Angels Sing  
Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal), #137

*Mendelssohn*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God of all holy nights, draw us to the surprising and unlikely place where you are born among us. Let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to behold the babe lying in a manger. The earth is astonished at the generosity of your love. You took on human form, not with the trappings of power and might, but among people who fasted, prayed, and gave thanks in the midst of their poverty. Grant that we may hear and respond to the glad tidings of the birth of Jesus Christ, our savior. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Charlie Wells

SOLO: I Wonder as I Wander  
Stephen Lebrón, baritone

*John Jacob Niles*

SECOND LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Elaine Vildzius

SOLO: The Virgin's Slumber Song  
Shannon Lebrón, mezzo-soprano

*Max Reger*

THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

Brooke Guiffre

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SOLO: Gesù Bambino  
Garrett Murphy, baritone

*Pietro Yon*

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM: Christmas Day  
Chancel Choir  
Laurie Stewart Otten, soprano; Shannon Lebrón, mezzo-soprano,  
Christian Figueroa, tenor; Garrett Murphy, baritone

*arr. Gustav Holst*

*Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! 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!  
God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from woe and sin, when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy!  
In Bethlehem, in Jewry, this blessed Babe was born,  
And laid within a manger, upon that holy morn;  
The which His Mother, Mary, did nothing take in scorn.  
O tidings of comfort and joy!  
Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath oped the heavenly door, and man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Come, ye lofty, come, ye lowly, let your songs of gladness ring;  
In a stable lies the Holy, in a manger rests the King:  
See, in Mary's arms reposing, Christ by highest heaven adored:  
Come, your circle round Him closing, pious hearts that love the Lord.  
Come ye poor, no pomp of station robes the Child your hearts adore:  
He, the Lord of all salvation, shares your want, is weak and poor:  
Oxen, round about behold them; rafters naked, cold and bare,  
See the shepherds, God has told them that the Prince of Life lies there.  
Come, ye children, blithe and merry, this one Child your model make;*

*Christmas holly, leaf, and berry, all be prized for His dear sake;  
 Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender, come, ye spirits, keen and bold;  
 All in all your homage render, weak and mighty, young and old.  
 High above a star is shining, and the wise men haste from far:  
 Come, glad hearts, and spirits pining: for you all has risen the star.  
 Let us bring our poor oblations, thanks and love and faith and praise:  
 Come, ye people, come, ye nations, all in all draw nigh to gaze.  
 The first Noel the angels did say  
 was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
 In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!  
 Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
 And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
 This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.  
 O tidings of comfort and joy.  
 Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice:  
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!  
 Calls you one, and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall:  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-14

Tommy Williams

SERMON: "The Legacy of Love"

Matt Wooster

SOLO: Villancico Yaucano

*Amaury Veroy*

Christian Figueroa, tenor

*In this carol from Yauco (a coffee-growing region of Puerto Rico), a poor farmer offers his heart to the infant Jesus, because he can afford no other gift.*

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:15-20

David Thornton

ANTHEM: He Is Born

*French Carol, arr. Sandra Eithun*

Hills Bells Quintet; Martha Stowell, Director

INVITATION TO OFFERING

SOLO: Cantique de Noël (O Holy Night)

*Adolphe Adam*

Laurie Stewart Otten, soprano

COMMISSION

The sun has set, and the night grows cold.  
But the love of Christ glows with warmth to soften hearts that have become hard,  
to kindle the strength of compassion, and to illuminate the grace of God for all the world.  
Arise, shine, for your light has come; the glory of God has risen upon you.

CAROL: Silent Night, Holy Night

*Stille Nacht*

Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal), #142

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Noël X

*Louis-Claude Daquin*

John Finney, organ

Preaching: Rev. Matt Wooster

Liturgists: Rev. Judy Swahnberg, Rev. Anne Marie Holloway

Soloists: Laurie Stewart Otten, Shannon Lebrón, Christian Figueroa, Garrett Murphy

Guest Soloist: Stephen Lebrón

Hills Bells Quintet: Lucy O'Mara, Chris Stowell, Martha Stowell (Director), Elaine Vildzius, Libby Zobel

## Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er last - ing Lord!  
 3. Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - ous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 born to raise all souls on earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.  
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN  
 77.77D, w. refrain

Charles Wesley's original first line was 'Hark how all the welkin  
 rings!' English evangelist George Whitefield revised that in 1743.

# Silent Night, Holy Night

142

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
 (1.) Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht

round you vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar. Hol - der Kna - be im lock - i - gen Haar,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, c. 1863  
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT  
 Irr.

Written for Christmas eve in Oberndorf, Upper Austria, when the break-down of the organ made a change in worship appropriate, this beloved carol was first sung by a girls' choir, accompanied by Mohr on the guitar (while singing tenor) with Gruber singing bass.