

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2020

Organ: Bonnie Boldt - Piano: Jane Vaughn, Bill Lawson

Leading Hymns: Anne Irwin, Alda Lawson

Audio/Visuals: Steve & Alexis Ellis

Reader: Pastor Mike

Ushers: Chuck Bork, Doug Totten, Ed Vaughn, Tom Perry

#231 verses 1, 3, 4 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38... This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with Child and give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Mary was pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. Mary was with child although she and Joseph had not yet come together intimately in order that she might be pregnant.

Because Joseph was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what was recorded in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" [God with us] When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel had commanded him and took

Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a Son, and he gave Him the name Jesus--which means, "God's salvation."

#223 verses 1- 4, "The First Noel"

Luke 2:1-12... In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) Everyone went to his own town to register. Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to marry him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the Baby to be born, she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son, wrapped Him in cloths placing Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

There were shepherds out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night, when an angel of the Lord appeared to them, God's glory shining around them, they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy, that is for all the people; today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

#222 verses 1-4, "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Luke 2:13-16... "A great company of angels appeared, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.'" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and baby Jesus, who was lying in the manger.

#232 verses 1-3, "Away in a Manger"

Special (Anne): O Holy Night

#242 verses 1-4, "O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

Luke 2:17-20... After witnessing the Christ child, shepherds went out and shared the good news of the Savior's birth with everyone they met. They spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child, all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, worshiped quietly. "She treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." Imagine Mary, as she considered all that Gabriel had announced concerning her special conception, and how Joseph had responded to her pregnancy, and the very special names to be given this Child: Jesus (God's salvation) and Immanuel (God with us).

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. They praised God for His indescribable Gift, Jesus, the Savior born in Bethlehem!

#250 verses 1-2, "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

#238 verses 1-3, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

'Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house,
Not a creature was praying, not the man or his spouse.
Their Bibles weren't read, they had no concern,
That Jesus had said, He soon would return.
All the children were getting ready for bed,
Not one ever kneeling or bowing a head.
The wife in her rocker with a cat in her lap,
Was watching the Late Show while the man napped.
When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
The man sprang to his feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window he flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!
When what to his wondering eyes should appear,
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray,
They knew in a moment this must be The Day!
The light of His face made them cover their heads,
It was Jesus returning just like He had said!
And though they possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
They cried when they saw Him in spite of themselves.
In the Book of Life that He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved child, woman & man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for their names, then
He said, "they aren't here," and their heads hung in shame.

The People whose names had been written with love,
He gathered to take to His Father above.
All those who were ready rose up with no sound,
While everyone else was left there on the ground.
For this man and his wife it was too late,
They had waited too long and thus sealed their fate;
They stood and they cried, as everyone rose out of sight,
Oh, if only they had been ready tonight.
In the words of this poem the meaning is clear,
The coming of Jesus is drawing near;
There's only one life and when comes the last call,
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

#224 verses 1, 4, "Joy to the World"

#225 verses 1-3, "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

(All lights are turned off except for the sconces), candles are now passed out, lighted from the inside and outside isles (unlit candle leaned toward lit candle), one person to the next, until all candles are lit, (sconce lights are now turned off), and then we sing (Acapella):

#236 verses 1-3, "Silent Night, Holy Night"

(Both projectors are to be shut down), all candles are now extinguished, only the Advent Candles remain lit; but they too are now put out, one by one, and then the Christ Candle also (momentarily), only to be re-lit.

Let us, like those first shepherds, worship Him and spread the word to all who will listen, the Savior has come. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. Whoever believes in and follows [Him] will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life (John 8:12).

(The sconce lights are now turned back on.)

You may drop your candles in the containers by the exit doors.

Merry Christmas!