



## **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION**

**DECEMBER 24, 2017**

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

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## THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

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*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*

LUKE 2:10-11

### **The Prelude**

Christmas Prelude for Flute and Organ

Charles Callahan

### **The Eve of Christmas**

The Christ Candle, the white one in the center of the wreath, proclaims the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, Who gives the Light of Salvation to those who walked in sin's darkness. It is lighted on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

### **The Striking of the Hour**

### **The Call to Worship ~ The Song of Mary**

Luke 1:46-55

The Reverend S. Michael Howell (4:00)

The Reverend Patrick Curles (6:00)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever.

The first Noel, the angel 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.*

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.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

† **The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

**The Reading of the Christmas Story According to Luke**

Luke 2:1-20  
Page 1090 in the Pew Bible

**The Anthem**

*Carol for the King*

arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

Mary came with meekness, Jesus Christ to bear,  
Laid the Lord of glory in a manger there.

*Refrain: We come rejoicing, Jesus Christ to love,  
Baby in a manger, King of heaven above!*

Angels came with praises, Jesus Christ to name,  
Heaven's choirs exalting Him who bears our shame. *Refrain*

Shepherds came with trembling, Jesus Christ to see,  
King who at their bidding would their shepherd be. *Refrain*

Wisemen came with treasure, Jesus Christ to bless,  
He who shares all blessings heaven and earth possess. *Refrain*

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper****The Invitation to and Fencing of the Table**

*Family of God, as we draw near to the Lord's Supper to celebrate Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, let us be grateful and remember that our Lord instituted this sacrament as a perpetual reminder of His dying for our sakes and as a pledge of His undying love for us.*

*Therefore, Jesus bids us to come to Him in this sacrament in knowledge, faith, repentance, love, and with hearts hungering and thirsting for Him. If we are willingly and stubbornly living in sin, lacking peace in our relationships with others, secretly relying on our own good works for favor with God, then we are warned by God's Word not to receive this sacrament.*

*But all that are truly sorry for their sins and long to be delivered from the burden of them; all that are weary from brokenness and long to be filled with the life of Christ; all that are doubting and need the assuring embrace of God; all that humbly put their trust in Christ and desire His grace that they may lead a holy life; and, all that are baptized members in an evangelical church, are invited and encouraged in His name to join us in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Let us therefore come that we be refreshed and find rest for our souls.*

*If you are not in a saving relationship with God through Christ today, do not take the bread and cup, but take Christ and receive Him in your heart as those around you receive the meal. Then, immediately following the service, come and tell a minister or one of our leaders what you have done so we can prepare you to receive communion next time as a child of God.*





## The Confessing of Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Minister: What do you believe about God the Father?

**People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

Minister: What do you believe about God the Son?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

Minister: What do you believe about God the Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**



## The Prayer of Humble Access

### The Words of Institution

### The Serving of the Supper

#### The Solo

*O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam

(4:00) Angie Martin, *soprano*, (6:00) Merritt Lee, *soprano*

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## The Organ Interlude and Passing of the Light

*As all candles and lights are extinguished and only the Christ candle remains lit, let us remember that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, Who had given the light of salvation to all who receive Him.*

In Him (Jesus) was life, and the light was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it ... the true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world ... to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:4-5, 9, 12-13).

### The Closing Carol

*Silent Night!, Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

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! Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

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!

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† **The Closing Prayer (in unison)**      Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. Amen.**

† **The Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace ... the peace of God, which passes all understanding ... and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon and remain with you until the day breaks and the shadows flee away.

**Please extinguish candles.**

**The Postlude**

Todd Alexander, *organ*

**Your offering may be given to one of the ushers standing at the doors as you exit.**

The Christmas Eve offering provides monthly supplemental, temporary, or one-time assistance to our retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, pastors without call, church lay workers, and their widows and dependent children who have low incomes. Each year the Christmas Eve offering is given to help Trinity Church's own retired former staff minister, The Reverend Stanley Hartman.



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