

Christmas Eve

PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DALLAS, TEXAS

DECEMBER 24, 2016

10:00 pm

*That the great angel-blinding light should shrink
His blaze to shine in a poor shepherd's eye,
That the unmeasured God so low should sink
As Pris'ner in a few poor rags to lie,
That from His mother's breast He milk should drink
Who feeds with nectar heaven's fair family,
That a vile manger His low bed should prove
Who in a throne of stars thunders above:*

*That He, whom the sun serves, should faintly peep
Through clouds of infant flesh; that He the old
Eternal Word should be a Child and weep,
That He who made the fire should fear the cold:
That heaven's high majesty His court should keep
In a clay cottage, by each blast controll'd:
That glory's self should serve our griefs and fears,
And free Eternity submit to years.*

from *Sospetto d'Herode*
Richard Crashaw (1612-1649)



ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Christmas Eve

Prelude

“Away in a Manger”
Will Hughes, *solo*

arr. John Rutter

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
Park Cities Brass

arr. Don Gillis

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”
Mr. Hughes, *solo*

GOD REST YOU MERRY

“What Child Is This?”
Park Cities Brass

arr. Don Gillis

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”
Chancel Choir

Vajdal/Schalk

*Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word, I come in half-belief,
a pilgrim strangely stirred; But there is room and welcome there for me.
In that unlikely place I find Him as they said: sweet, newborn Babe, how frail,
and in a manger bed: A still small Voice to cry one day for me.
How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled?
With pounding heart, I stare: A Child, a Son, The Prince of Peace for me.
Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned its way into my heart:
Unmasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me.*

Call to Worship

The Rev. Mark Davis

Minister: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

People: **All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.**

Minister: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 1.1-5, 14

*Prayer of Adoration concluding with

O Source of all good,
what shall I render to Thee for the gift of gifts,
Thine own dear Son,
begotten, not created,
my redeemer, surety, substitute,
His self-emptying incomprehensible,
His infinity of love beyond the heart's grasp.

Herein is wonder of wonders:

He came below to raise me above,
was born like me that I might become like Him.

Herein is love: when I cannot rise to Him,
He draws near on wings of grace,
To raise me to Himself.

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds,
and enlarge my mind;
let me hear good tidings of great joy,
and hearing, believe, rejoice and adore,
my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father.

Let me with Simeon clasp the new-born Child to my heart,
embrace Him with undying faith,
exulting that He is mine and I am His.

In Him Thou hast given me so much that heaven can give no more. Amen!

*Carol

"The First Noel, the Angel Did Say"

THE FIRST NOEL



The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
Then let us all with one ac - cord sing



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay, in
in the east be - yond them far, and
prais - es to our heav - 'nly Lord that



fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep on a
to the earth it gave great light, and
hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and



cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
with His blood man - kind hath bought.



No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el!



Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

O God, in the beginning You spoke,
and creation was born,
the object of Your loving care.
In the fullness of time You spoke,
and the Word became flesh,
Jesus, gift of Your love.
We wonder at the miracle of creation;
we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation!
Forgive us, Father,
if we have only thought of Jesus as a great teacher,
or a good example.
Forgive us,
for though Jesus came so that we might be Your sons and daughters,
we have been wayward children,
lacking in our love for You and for one another.
This year, would You lift the veil from our eyes,
so that we might behold Jesus for who He really is,
the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Great I Am!
We wait upon You with ready hearts, O God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Private Confession

Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters. Galatians 4.4-5

Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer

*A portion of tonight's offering will be given to the
Presbyterian Church in America Ministerial Relief Fund.*

Musical Meditation "How Great Our Joy" *arr. Bob Krogstad*
Chancel Choir • David Fray, conductor

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.

*How great our joy! Great our joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

There shall be born, so He did say, in Bethlehem a Child today.

There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill.

***The Christmas Greeting of Peace**

Minister: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all people! The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

***The Scripture Reading**

Malachi 4.1-3

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

² *But for you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.*

³ *And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.*

Christmas Eve Meditation INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT
"The Sun of Righteousness"

Mr. Davis

Musical Acclamation "O Holy Night"
Will Hughes, solo • Bryan Varenkamp, piano

CANTIQUE DE NOEL

Carol "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

STILLE NACHT



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



round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant, so ten-der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav'n-ly hosts_ sing al - le - lu - ia;
ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



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.

Christmas Prayer

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come,
this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome in the name of the
Lord Jesus Christ.*
