



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2023
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
7:00 P.M.

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CHRISTMAS EVE
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There must always be remaining in every life, some place for the singing of angels, some place for that which in itself is breathless and beautiful. -- Howard Thurman

Gathering Music

Carol Medley

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Mendelssohn/Lani Smith. © 1971 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp.

"Away in a Manger" James R. Murray/David H. Hegarty © 1987 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp.

"Yuletide Echoes" William Hodson. Theodore Presser Co. Carl Fischer LLC.

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Welcome

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude

"O Holy Night"

Adolphe C. Adam/Robert J. Hughes. © 1985 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission. CCLI#20126570

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Ideus, Miller, and Wheeler Families

One: Look at the world –

All: But it feels like endless bad news. Poverty. Despair. Hardship. Cruelty. Hunger. Pain. War. Grief. Climate catastrophe. Inequality. Hate. Disaster.

One: Look at the world –

All: The world is weary.

One: Hush the noise. Look closely. You may have to squint. You may have to peer into the shadows. But when you do...

~Christ Candle is lit~

One: Look at the world –

All: The world God so loves. Sharing. Compassion. Reaching out. Art. Sunrises. Music. Friendship. Laughter. Love. New life. Prayer. Faith. Grace. Community. Reconciliation. Helpers.

One: This is where the Messiah comes. Not some faraway galaxy. Not waiting for a perfect world. Not a safe, sanitized, rose-tinted past. Not where there's plenty of room and plenty of time. Here.

All: A thrill of hope: Emmanuel, God with us.

* Congregational Carol, No. 104

"Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

Evening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Cristina Adams

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Rev. Cristina Adams

Congregational Carol, No. 143

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

The First Lesson *Those Living in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light* Neal Purvis
Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

Congregational Carol, No. 107 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
ST. LOUIS

The Second Lesson *Mary to Carry the Child of Promise* Caleb Lord
Luke 1.26-38

Congregational Carol, No. 148 “What Child is This”
GREENSLEEVES

The Third Lesson *The Baby is Born!* Nathan Huguley
Luke 2.1-7

Ministry of Music “The Wexford Carol”
Elaine Hagenberg (ASCAP) © 2019 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

The Fourth Lesson *The Shepherds and Angels* Paige Van Ostran
Luke 2.8-16

Congregational Carol, No. 102 “Joy to the World! The Lord is Come”
ANTIOCH

The Fifth Lesson *The Magi* Rev. Cristina Adams
Matthew 2.1-12

Offering: “No Room in the Inn” Wendy Wheeler
Family Promise of Lawrence

This evening, we collect the Christmas Eve offering, which we call “No Room at the Inn.” We remember the Holy Family, who was left without safe lodging when they arrived in Bethlehem, leaving our Savior to be born in a borrowed stable. Likewise, we remember families today in our own community, who do not have access to safe and affordable housing. Our offering tonight will support the work of Family Promise, as they seek to help parents and children find a place to lay their heads.

Offertory “Angels We Have Heard on High”
Jon Schmidt, Al van der Beek & Steven Nelson. © 2013 Classicool Music/Hal Leonard Corp.
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Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Congregational Carol, No. 113

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Celebrating the Table of Peace

Invitation to the Table

Celebrating the Bread & Cup

“Still Still Still” Jon Schmidt. © 2013 Classicool Music/Hal Leonard Corp. Used by permission CCLI #20126570

Hymn of Peace (No. 134) and Candle Lighting

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

STILLE NACHT

Chiming of the Hour

Pastoral Benediction

Postlude

“O Holy Night”

Adolph Adam/Tom Roed. © 1995 Warner Bros. Pub./Alfred Music. Used with permission. CCLI#20126570

FBC PASTORAL STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant, Senior Pastor

Rev. Cristina Adams, Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families

MUSICIANS:

Worship Director & Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

LIVE STREAM VIDEO CREW:

Video: Susan Pauls, Andrew Lord Audio: Jim Lord Social Media Chat Moderator: Kylee Johnston

The FBC Staff expresses our sincere gratitude for the Christmas gifts given to us by such a loving and caring congregation!

POINSETTIA DONATIONS:

Verlin Gilbert: in memory of Suzanne Gilbert, Dana Marie Gilbert Knappenberger, and my mother, Marie Swank

Alice Jo DeFries: in memory of Dr. Stanley DeFries

Sandy & Bob Heacock: in memory of our loved ones

Neal & Jenny Purvis: in memory of Dr. Jerry Hutchison and Kris Kennedy

Matt, Kimberly, Addison, & Ethan Sturtevant and Bill Bellew: in memory of Marie Bellew, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother

Steve & Mandy Yoder, Kyle, Evan & Olin: in memory of our son & brother, Neil.

For those who donated poinsettias for the altar you are welcome to take them home following tonight's service.