

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2023, 6:00 pm

Family Christmas Eve

Prelude

Welcome

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Lighting the Christ Candle: The Davidson family

Voice 1: The angels sing the glory of God in the highest heavens.

Voice 2: "Be not afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy for all people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord... you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!" (Luke 2)

Voice 1: At Christmas, God speaks in signs. The baby in the manger is a sign of a new life and new governance shining in the world. Christ is born and the world is filled with the promise of hope, signs of peace, joy and the incarnation of God's love.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Voice 2: We join with all creation in joyful praise.

All: We light this candle because God has been made flesh and dwells among us. (while lighting the Christ Candle)

The Christmas Story: Luke 2:1-5 The Birth of Jesus

¹ At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. ³ Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown.

⁴ Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. ⁵ He went to register with Mary,

who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant...

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Mary & Joseph & donkey)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go
by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee
tonight.

Luke 2:6-7

⁶ and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

Away in a Manger (baby Jesus)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Luke 2: 8-14 The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, ¹⁰ but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. ¹¹ This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! ¹² And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:
¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (the angel)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them back 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."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. ¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. ¹⁹ Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. ²⁰ The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

Solo: Jane Bennett The Friendly Beasts

Matthew 2:1-11 Visitors from the East

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We Three Kings (The Magi)

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star.
Oh, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy
Perfect Light.

Dedication of Offerings

Children's Story: *The Most Beautiful Christmas Tree*

Joy to the World

Joy to The world! The Lord has come:
Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Christmas Prayer

Silent Night

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.

Benediction

Postlude

Thank you for making St. Andrew's Hespeler a part of your Christmas Eve this year! May the blessings of the season be upon your family as you celebrate.

You are welcome to join us for worship again:

Christmas Eve Carols and Communion:
8:00 pm

New Years Eve Celebration: 10 am!

Thank you to Zoé McAndless for playing and Jane Bennett for singing for this service!

