

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2024 – 7:00 pm

St Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

Organist: Martin Bohl

Soloist: Jane Bennett

Prelude: In the Bleak Midwinter by Dan Forrest

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

Voice 1: In a land ruled by an empire, under the weight of oppression, a young couple search for a place for Mary to give birth, but there was no room at the inn.

Voice 2: In the humblest of places, the promised child is born!

Voice 1: In lowly circumstances, God fulfills the promise to all people. This is the meeting of heaven and earth!

Voice 2: The glorious light of that stable burst into the night, announcing a birth that has changed the world. On this night, we light the Christ candle.

The Christ candle is lit.

Let us pray together:

Living God, may the light of Christ find a home in our hearts, in our congregations and in our world. Hallelujah! Christ is born!

Carol #159 "Oh come, all ye faithful" vv. 1,2,5

1. Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him;

oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of light, born unto Mary, the virgin blest, very God, begotten, not created:

Oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him;

oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him;

oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Responsive Reading: Titus 2:11-14 (The Message)

L: God's readiness to give and forgive is now public.

P: Salvation's available for everyone!

L: We're being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honouring life.

P: This new life is starting right now, and is whetting our appetites for the glorious day when our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, appears.

L: He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into this good, pure life,

P: making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness.



Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."

Carol #153: "Joy to the world"

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

let earth receive its King; let every heart
prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing. And heaven
and nature sing.

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy. Repeat the
sounding joy.
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor
thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found. Far as the curse is
found.
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of
his righteousness,
and wonders of his love. And wonders of his
love.
And wonders, and wonders of his love.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-6

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were

accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol #147 Angels we have heard on high

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

4. See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. *Refrain*

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Offertory: He is Born

Sung by Jane Bennett



Reflection: Emmanuel

Celebration of Communion

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Light

Carol #154: "Silent night"

1. 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.

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Hallelujah,
Christ, the Saviour is born!
Christ, the Saviour is born!"

3. 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.

Benediction

Postlude: Sicilian Mariner's Hymn by Benton Price

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

You are welcome to join us for worship again:

Regular Worship: December 28 at 10 am.
Sermon: The Newly Discovered "Tweets" of Herod the Great

Thank you to Martin Bohl for playing and
Jane Bennett for singing
for this service!

