



# *Christmas Eve*

AT BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Christmas Eve

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\* Indicates when Congregation stands

## GATHERING

**Prelude**     *Angels We Have Heard On High* video     Ella Carrithers  
                  *Bach's Prelude in C Major from The Well-Tempered Clavier*     Sebastian Lin

**Welcome and Announcements**     Senior Pastor Doug Kelly

**Responsive Call to Worship**     Caleb Langford

Leader: The long-expected Christ is born.

**People: The Promised Christ is here.**

Leader: Jesus the Christ has come.

**People: Jesus Christ, the Light of the whole world!**

**All: Come, let us worship Christ our Lord!**

## WAITING FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS

**Scripture**     Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7     The Totten Family: David, Treva, Parker, Conway, and Monroe

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles**

## THE ANNOUNCEMENT

**First Reading**     Luke 1:26-38     Isabella Russo

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive

and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," Mary replied. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

**\*Carol #133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (verses 1 & 3) Transitional Dir. of Worship, Phillip Ferrell  
and Ellie Shoop  
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*  
Sing, choirs of angel; sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest (*Chorus*)

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS

**Second Reading** Luke 2: 1-7

Parker Totten

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**\*Carol #145** *What Child is This* (verses 1 & 3)

Phillip Ferrell and Ellie Shoop

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary

**Christmas Message**

Associate Pastor of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Danielle Merseles

# THE ANGEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT

**Third Reading** Luke 2: 8-14

Emma Omenn

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."  
<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

**\*Carol** #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (verses 1 & 2)

Phillip Ferrell and Ellie Shoop

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo*  
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song (*Chorus*)

# THE SHEPHERDS AND MAGI

**Fourth Reading** Luke 2:15-20

Grant Greiner

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone 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 about."  
<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.  
<sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**\*Carol** #134 *Joy to the World!* (verses 1, 2 & 4)

Phillip Ferrell and Ellie Shoop

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing  
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy  
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, wonders of His love

**Fifth Reading** Matthew 2:1-12

Doug Kelly

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## Lighting the Christ Candle

Doug Kelly

# JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**Scripture** John 1:1-5 & 9

Sebastian Lin

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

**Passing the Light of Christ**

Doug Kelly and Danielle Merseles

*Please pass the light to your neighbor with the words: "Jesus Christ, Light of the World." Remain seated and raise your candles together on the third verse.*

**Carol** #122 *Silent Night* (verses 1, 2 & 3)

Phillip Ferrell and Ellie Shoop

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  
Heavenly 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

**Benediction**

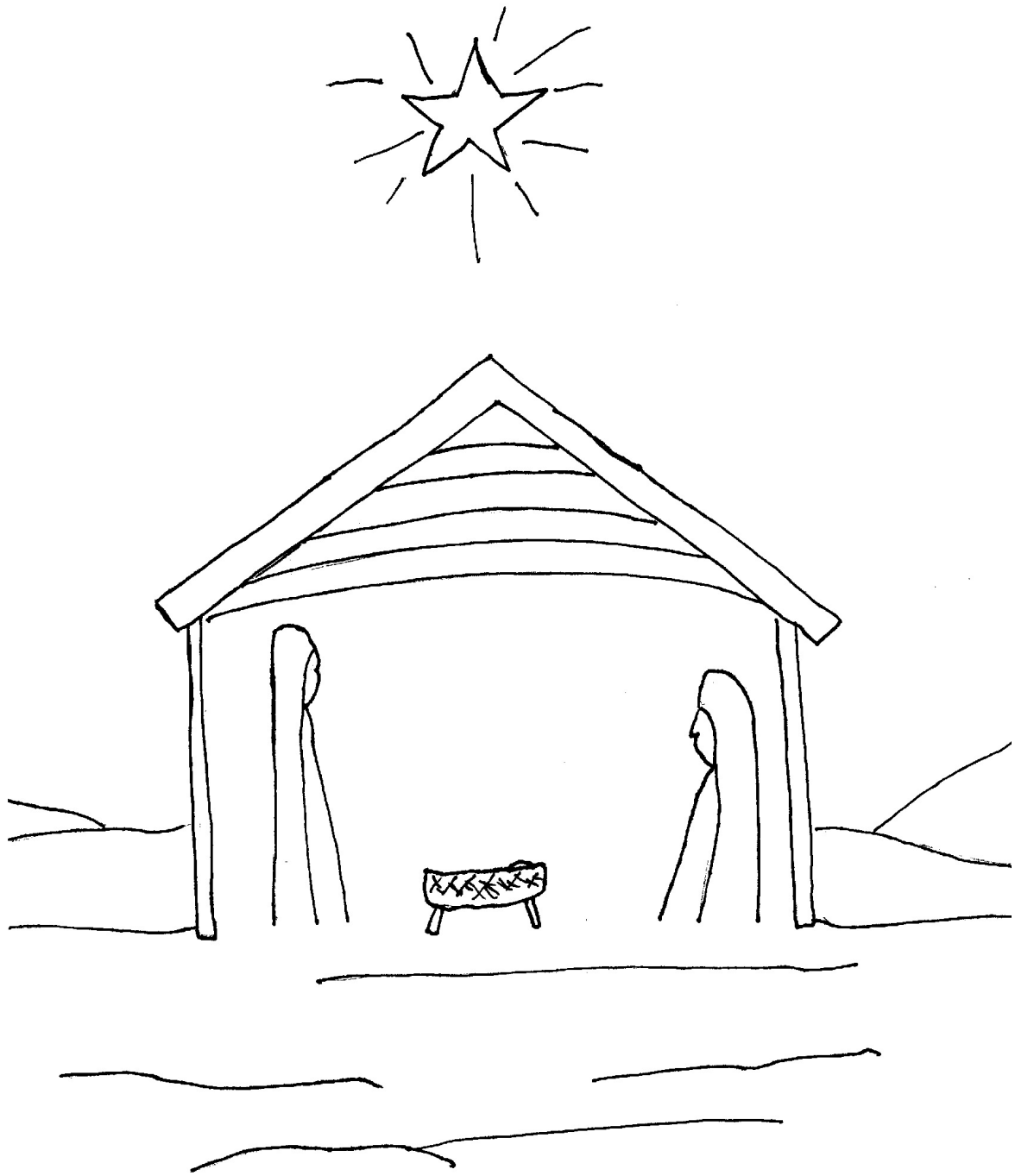
Danielle Merseles and Caleb Langford

**Postlude**

Doug Kelly

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*You may leave your used candle in the bin by the exit or take it with you.*



**Front Cover Art:** Isabella Russo

**Back Cover Art:** Luke Wickline

*The 2021 Fifth Grade Class thanks you for joining us on this holy night, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.*