



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH December 24, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Noah Davis

Choir Introit

Congregation

Call to Worship-Responsive:

Liturgist

Liturgist: How does a weary world practice love?

All: By sending cards, and picking up the phone. By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others. By learning people's stories, and finding common ground. By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.

Liturgist: There are a million ways to practice love. So tonight, we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge. With God's help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.

* Opening Hymn *"Go Tell It On the Mountain"* #136 GTG

Congregation

* Lighting of the Christ Candle

Pastor: How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?
How does a weary world combat cruelty?
How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

**All: We do all these things with God's help.
For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.
Tonight, Christ draws near. Tonight, we light the Christ Candle. Tonight, we are not alone.**

Pastor: God is near. Love has drawn close.
Rejoice! For God loves this weary world.
Amen.



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* Call to Confession

Liturgist

The holy child of Bethlehem came to cast out sin
and to bring to us the gift of salvation.

Let us open our hearts to receive
what God seeks to give.

* Prayer of Confession

Congregation

**Holy God, you have come among us in Jesus Christ,
hallowing our humanity and embodying love.**

**We confess that we have turned
from the path Jesus has marked,
failing to claim all you intend for us,
withholding love from our neighbors
and ourselves. Forgive us.**

**Be born anew in us, that our lives might reflect
Christ's radiant light.**

* Time of Silence for Personal Prayers of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist

Peace on earth, mercy mild.

God and sinners reconciled.

This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Responding to Grace:

"Gloria from Angels we Have Heard on High"

Congregation

Time With Young Disciples

Congregation

Prayer for Illumination

Almighty God,
through your mighty acts
we receive grace upon grace.

From your fullness,
feed us with your life-giving Word,
that our lives, like bread,
may feed a hungry world. **Amen.**



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First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.
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.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God.**

Choir Anthem: *"Were You There on That Christmas Night"*

Choir



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Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Sermon

"Christmas is Here"

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Music Meditation:

Noah Davis

*** Sermon Hymn**

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" #119 GTG

Congregation

Special Music

Bethany Scovill



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH December 24, 2024

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Great Thanksgiving
The Words of Blessing for the Bread and the Cup

Pastor Nathaniel Asperger

Call to Offering

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

*** Doxology**

Congregation

*** Closing Hymn**

"Silent Night" #122 GTG

Congregation

*** Charge, Benediction**

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

*** Congregational Postlude:**

"Joy to the World"

Noah Davis

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH December 24, 2024



JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^{\#}$

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man-ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987
Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT
7.6.7.6 with refrain

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GLORIA FROM ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for 'Glo - ri - a'. The second staff contains the melody for 'in ex-cel-sis De - o! De - o!' with first and second endings. The third staff is labeled 'Final' and contains the melody for 'De - o! In ex-cel-sis De - o!'.

Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French carol, ca. 18th cent.;
tr. fr. *Crown of Jesus Music, II*, London, 1862; tr. by James Chadwick, 1813–1882, and others, alt.
Music: Trad. French carol; arr. © 2013, Spirit & Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved.

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JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ - teous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN
7.7.7.7.D with refrain

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JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

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
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - enly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht
 nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

KOREAN

1 *고요한밤 거룩한밤
 어둠에 묻힌밤
 주의부모 앉아서
 감사기도 드릴때
 아기잘도 잔다
 아기잘도 잔다*

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!
 Todo duerme en derredor,
 entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
 bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
 brilla la estrella de paz,
 brilla la estrella de paz.*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;
 stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
 Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular

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COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH December 24, 2024



JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,
 and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIUCH
 CM with repeat
 (alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

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