



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2017
5:30 p.m.

Prelude *Noël VI: quand Jesus naquit à Noël* by Claude-Bénigne Balbastr

Welcome TJ Shirley

Gathering as the Children of God Rev. Ricardo Green

One: There is good news of great joy for all!

All: *Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.*

One: Light shines on those who live in darkness,

All: **for a child is born to us this night.**

One: Let us worship God.

† Carol No. 22 *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory ”*

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, Come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant Light;

Come and worship, Come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star;

Come and worship, Come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, Come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

The Lighting of the Advent Candles Callum Lever

Prayer Rev. Green

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of the small town of Bethlehem.

† Carol No. 44

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And Peace to all on earth.
How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Second Lesson

Luke 1:16-38

Joanna Mielke

The angel Gabriel visits Mary.

† Carol No. 40

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! the Lord is 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.

Joy to the world! The Savior 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.

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.

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.

Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Alice Ann Lever

Jesus is born in a stable in Bethlehem.

Carol No. 25

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, No crib for His 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 poor Baby wakes,
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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children In Thy tender care,
And fit us to heaven To live with Thee there.

A multitude of angels praise God and the shepherds go to Bethlehem.

† Carol No. 23

“Angels We have Heard on High”

**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?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Children's Time

“The Animal's Christmas Eve”

Elizabeth Small

† Carol No. 56

“The First Noel”

**The first Noel the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

**And by the light of that same star, Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest; O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

**Then entered in those Wise Men three, Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in His presence, Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

**Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought, And with His blood our life hath bought
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

Offering for Family Promise of North Fulton/DeKalb

Elizabeth Small

Offertory

“O Holy Night”

Featuring Amy Kiley

† Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Green

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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

John 1:1-14

TJ Shirley

(Parents, please give your children adequate supervision if they are participating in the candle-lighting)

† Passing of the Peace and Sharing the Light of Christ

TJ Shirley

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Candles that are lighted should be held upright while those to be lighted are tipped to the burning candle. As you pass the flame, you are invited to say, “The peace of Christ be with you.” One may respond by saying, “And also with you.”

† Carol # 60

“Silent Night, Holy 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.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly 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!**

**Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, "Alleluia" to our King:
“Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.”**

Benediction

Elizabeth Small

Postlude

“Improvisation”

Nick Johns-Cooper

A CORDIAL WELCOME to all who are worshipping with us on this Christmas Eve. On this sacred evening, remember in prayer all those who are near and dear to you, and all others in need. The Pastoral Families and Staff Members of Mount Vernon join in wishing you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Christmas Eve Offering is for Family Promise of North Fulton/DeKalb. Family Promise provides shelter to homeless families in the area through a network of 13 Christian and Jewish congregations. It assists the families in finding permanent housing, jobs and other social services. You can donate online on our church website (www.mvpchurch.org) or place your gift in the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity!

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME? You are invited to worship with us on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (contemporary) or 11:00 a.m. (traditional).

A NURSERY is located in the lower level of the North Wing, Room 120. Please ask an usher for directions.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed December 25th and 26th.



Merry Christmas!