



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2018
5:30 p.m.

Gathering Music played by MVPC Brass Quintet: TJ Shirley, Ross Mielke – Trumpet;
Dr. Kathleen Ray – French horn; Dan Reagan – Trombone; John Hibbard – Tuba

Prelude “Bach’s Christmas Oratorio Part II, BWV 248, No. 10”

Welcome Rev. Susan Haynes

† **Gathering as the Children of God (Lighting of Advent Wreath)** The Ray Family

One: Throughout this season we have lived, waited, and remembered the hope, peace, joy, and love of God found in Christ.

All: *Tonight, we gather together and light candles in honor of the Christ Child.*

One: With the birth of Christ, salvation has drawn near.

All: *The God who ordered the chaos of the universe has come down into the chaos of our world.*

One: The Word which was with God at the beginning came down and lived with us.

All: *While we were yet living in the valley of the shadow of death, the light of new life burst forth.*

One: We light this candle for Christ.

All: *On this night, we remember God has come in the Christ Child.*

† **Carol No. 28** “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

*Good Christian friends rejoice, With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today
Ox and ass before Him bow and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends rejoice, With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven’s door, And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends rejoice, With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

Christmas Litany – We Celebrate by Brad Offutt Rev. Ricardo Green

One: God of unimaginable love, on the first Christmas You became one of us.

All: *We celebrate Your love for every person in every place and time.*

One: God of all humanity, You offered Your Peace to anyone who would be satisfied with Your presence.

All: We celebrate Your Peace in Your Church and accept Your commission to share it in all the world.

One: God of the shepherds, You announced Your arrival among us to the poorest, the most humble.

All: We celebrate Your good news to each of us and to everyone, right here where we are.

One: God of the manger, You came to us through Your Son in a small and simple place.

All: We celebrate Your presence with us this day in this small place made glorious by Your being in it.

One: God of deliverance, You came to be one of us in order to deliver all of us.

All: We celebrate Your protection and mercy toward all who are sick or in trouble.

One: God of birth, when You became as we are, You opened Yourself to each of us, no matter who or what we are.

All: We celebrate this day Your Kingdom and that we are welcome in it right now and always. Keep us close, now and in the life to come.

One: God of Christmas, bless us as we once again celebrate Your coming into Your creation.

All: Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Time for the Children

Parade of the Animals

† Carol No. 31

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumphs of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

"Missing Jesus"

† 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 for heaven to live with Thee there.*

Offering

Offertory

"O Holy Night"
T. J. Shirley, Soloist

arr. By Sally DeFord

† Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

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.

Litany of Light and Sharing of the Light

One: We thought we lived in the light, but the darkness of fear, anger, and alienation had taken over.

All: *We wondered where God was.*

One: God banished the darkness away in the light of the Christmas star.

All: *God's light was found around a manger, a place the Holy Child was given to sleep.*

One: God called to the shepherds through the voices of the angels whose first words were "Do not be afraid. There is Good News for you!"

All: *And in that instance, all the people who felt that God didn't care about them, had hope.*

One: The star shone brightly and shines brightly in our lives.

All: *Now no darkness can shut it out.*

One: Arise, shine, dear people, for our Light has come!

All: *Christ is the world's true Light, on our paths and in our lives.*

One: Receive the light and let its warmth and glow be in your hearts this night.

All: *The glory of the Lord shines around us on this night.*

Sharing the Light of Christ

† Carol No. 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, 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.*

*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."*

(Please extinguish your candle before leaving the sanctuary)

† 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.*

† **Benediction**

† **Postlude**

"Joy to the World"

arr. By Dave Brubeck

† Those who are able please stand

A CORDIAL WELCOME to all who are worshiping 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!