



Nassau Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2017 10:00 PM *Christmas Eve*

Prelude

Music for Harp and Flutes

Choral Introit

“O Jesus So Gentle, Jesus So Sweet”

J. S. Bach

O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet, Thy Father’s task didst Thou complete.
From heaven high and kingly crown to lowly ones Thou camest down,
O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet.

O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet, Thy Father’s wrath for us didst meet.
For all our sins hast Thou atoned; Thy Father’s love for us hast won,
O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet.

O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet, grant that we see Thy love so great.
All that we have belongs to Thee; Thou hast redeemed us, set us free,
O Jesus so gentle, Jesus so sweet.

♦ Call to Worship

I John 1:1-7, 3:23

At the sign ♦ you may stand.

♦ Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” [133]

Hymns may be found in the red pew hymnal *Glory to God* under the numbers given.

Collect for Christmas

Bold text is read in unison.

**Eternal God, who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.**

**In the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world’s darkness with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of your kingdom
through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

First Lesson

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him
Isaiah 11:1-9

pg 640

Anthem

“Christmas Eve Carol”

Jeffrey H. Rickard, music
Charles Wesley, text

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Hodie Christus natus est, Salvator apparuit.

Today Christ is born. The Savior appears.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, born today.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, angels in the heavens sing.

Second Lesson

For a child has been born for us
Isaiah 9:2^b;6-7

pg 638

♦ Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” [132]

Third Lesson

Comfort, O comfort my people
Isaiah 40:1-11

pg 667

Anthem

“And the Glory of the Lord”
from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel
Isaiah 40:5

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Fourth Lesson

From you shall come forth one who is to rule
Micah 5:2-5^a

pg 865

Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” [121]

Anthem

“How Far Is It to Bethlehem?”

English carol, arr. Mack Wilberg
Frances Chesterton, text

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
 Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
 Can we see the little child, is he within?
 If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?
 May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass, or sheep?
 May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
 If we touch his tiny hand will He awake?
 Will He know we've come so far just for his sake?
 Great kings have precious gifts, and we have naught.
 Little smiles and little tears are all we brought.
 For all weary children Mary must weep.
 Here, on the bed of straw, sleep, children, sleep.
 God in his mother's arms, babes in the byre,
 sleep, as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

Sixth Lesson

Blessed are you among women
Luke 1:39-56

♦ Hymn

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” [100]

Verse 1 – all

Verse 2 – treble voices

Verse 3 – lower voices

Verse 4 – all

Seventh Lesson

The time came for her to deliver her child
Luke 2:1-7

Anthem

“Hearken, Hearken, Mother Dear”

Czech carol
arr. Richard Proulx

Hearken, hearken, mother dear! Hark, my father, come and hear!
I have brought you news exciting, gladsome news for your delighting,
wonders that the Lord has shown, such as earth has never known.

Lo! In Bethlehem today, Christ is cradled on the hay.
Joseph and his Mother holy watch him in a manger lowly.
Humble oxen, standing by, warm the house where he must lie.

Shepherds came to greet their King, brought their pipes to play and sing
out amid the hills and heather. They had never played together,
so each played a tune he knew, keeping time with stamping shoe.

Eighth Lesson

To you is born this day a Savior
Luke 2:8-20

pg 58

Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High” [113]

Offertory

“Shepherds Carol”

John Miller, music
Phyllis Miller, text

Shepherds did their vigil keep when “Gloria, Gloria” filled the air.
Angels waked them from their sleep with “Gloria, Gloria” everywhere.
Abiding in the fields were they; to them they heard the angels say:
“Unto you is born this day in Bethlehem, Bethlehem far away
the Son of God in sweet array, who in a manger stall does stay
in Bethlehem, Bethlehem far away.”

Filled with fear they looked on high to see the angels fill the sky,
and sing again the glad reply of: “Gloria, Gloria, Hodie.”
They did run without delay to see the Savior born this day,
with cattle round His bed of hay, and “Gloria, Gloria, Hodie.”
Born amid the oxen wild, born of Mary, meek and mild,
born a King and yet a child, sing, “Gloria, Gloria, Hodie.”

He came into a world forlorn; came that all may be reborn.
Accept the gift of Christmas morn, in your hearts let Christ be born.

Sing “Gloria, Gloria.”

And like shepherds long ago, with “Gloria, Gloria” in the air,
we to Bethlehem must go, receive again from the manger glow
this love that from on high does flow. Gloria, Gloria, Gloria!

Pastoral Prayer for Christmas

Anthem

“In the Beginning Was the Word”

Carolyn Jennings
John 1:1, 14

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth,
and we have beheld the glory, the glory of the Son of God.

Ninth Lesson

The Word became flesh and lived among us
John 1:1-14

pg 91

Hymn

“Silent Night, Holy Night!” [122]

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.

Silent night, holy night!

**Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, “Alleluia; 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.**

Silent night, holy night!

**Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born.**

Benediction

Postlude

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Johannes Brahms

Liturgists (by appearance)

Lauren J. McFeaters

Francisco Pelaez-Diaz

Catherine Davis

J. Michael Walker

Joyce MacKichan Walker

Grace Coogan

Julia Aggreh

Michael Brothers

David A. Davis

Musicians

Adult Choir

Noel Werner, director

Elaine Christy, harp

Lynn Ann Cornell, handbells

Carol Fagundus, handbells

Kim Kleasen, flute

John Lane, flute

Michael Ryan, organ

Cover

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