

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHRISTMAS EVE 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
A FAMILY CAROLS AND CANDELIGHT SERVICE

Welcome to this virtual Christmas Eve Service. Families are encouraged to have candles on hand to join in with the candle lighting and all are encouraged to sing so that together we may light up the night with joy and fellowship.

THE PRELUDE "Joy to the World/For Unto Us a Child is Born" G. F. Handel, arr. Ronn Huff

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. (Isaiah 9)

Sing "O Come All Ye Faithful" (bulletin page 5)

BETHLEHEM

But you, O Bethlehem are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf. The people of Israel will be abandoned to their enemies until the woman in labor gives birth. Then at last his fellow countrymen will return from exile to their own land. And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD's strength, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. Then his people will live there undisturbed, for he will be highly honored around the world. And he will be the source of peace. (Micah 5)

Sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (bulletin page 6)

THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH (Luke 2)

And it came to pass that a proclamation was issued by Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph 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. ***(Light the Joseph candle.)***

He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ***(Light the Mary candle.)***

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to a son, whom they named Jesus. ***(Light the Christ candle.)***

She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Sing "Away in a Manger" (bulletin page 7)

THE SHEPHERDS (Luke 2)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ***(Light the shepherd candles.)***

Sing "The First Nowell" (bulletin page 8)

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them ***(light the tallest angel candle as narrator continues),***

and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

(light all of the angel candles as narrator continues) And suddenly a great company of heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Sing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (bulletin page 9)

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." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.

Sing "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (bulletin page 10)

THE WISE MEN

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We have come to worship him." ***(Light the wise men candles.)***

The star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw Jesus with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Our invitation to the offering is a quote by Dale Evans, wife of Roy Rogers: "Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas." May your giving reflect the love and joy of this night.

Special Music "Mary, Did You Know?"

Ruth Herrick, Soloist

ANOTHER DAY

Then, having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, the wise men returned to their country by another route. ***(Extinguish the wise men candles.)***

And the shepherds returned to their work, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen. ***(Extinguish the shepherd candles.)***

And the angels returned to heaven. ***(Extinguish the angel candles.)***

And many years later, Mary and Joseph, being flesh and bone, came to the end of their lives on earth. ***(Extinguish the Mary and Joseph candles.)***

THE LIGHT SHINES

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. (John 1)

But the Light that began in Bethlehem was life. And this life, Jesus Christ, was the Light of all humanity. The light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out. And it all began on a silent, holy night . . . long ago . . .

Close by singing "Silent Night" (bulletin page 11)

*A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS (by Robert Louis Stevenson)

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



Have a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!

*O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1751
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

ADESTE FIDELES *Irregular*
John F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

CHRISTMAS

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O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:4-7**Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.
 And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.
 Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Away in a Manger

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Anon., United States, 1885; st. 3, 1892; alt.

Luke 2:7

F B \flat F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the poor ba - by wakes, but
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close

C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The
 lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I
 by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless

F B \flat F

stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the
 love you, Lord Je - sus; pro - tect me, I pray, and
 all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care, and

C7 F B \flat C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 stay by my side un - til night turns to day.
 fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

This anonymous United States carol is often misattributed to

Tune: AWAY IN A MANGER 11.11.11.11.

The First Nowell

Traditional English Carol

THE FIRST NOWELL *Irregular with Refrain*
Traditional English Melody

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
2 They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing
3 And by the light of that same star Three
4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er
5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where
in the east, be - yond them far, And to the
wise men came from coun - try far; To seek for a
Beth - le - hem it took its rest, And there it
rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, And of - fered

they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
earth it gave great light, And so it con -
king men was their in - tent, And to fol - low the
did both stop and stay, Right o - ver the
there, in his pres - ence, Their gold and

REFRAIN
night that was so deep.
tin - ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh and frank - in - cense.

ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

And suddenly there was . . . a multitude of the heavenly host praising God . . . Luke 2:13

CHARLES WESLEY

FELIX MENDELSSOHN
ARR. BY WILLIAM H. CUMMINGS

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King:
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-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, Ris'n 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 th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King." A-men.

218 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain (Unison)

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.

Parts

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.

Silent Night! Holy Night!

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System 1: Treble clef, bass clef, 6/8 time signature. Chord symbols: Bb, F7, Bb.

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,

System 2: Treble clef, bass clef, 6/8 time signature. Chord symbols: Eb, Bb, Eb, Bb.

'round you vir - gin moth-er and child; ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu -
 ra - dian't beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing

System 3: Treble clef, bass clef, 6/8 time signature. Chord symbols: F7, Bb, Bb/F, F, F7, Bb.

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.

WORDS: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John F. Young (1820-1885)
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular