



CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be
upon his shoulders and his name will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6*

December 24, 2025

11:00 p.m.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

PRELUDE

"Wiegenlied (Lullaby)"
Zorana Randjelovic-Flores

Alexander Spendiarow

* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Luke 2:10-11)

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

Pastor: Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
People: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an-gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":
when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

the world in sol-emn still-ness lay, to hear the an-gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff for the voice, and a grand staff (treble and bass) for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 6/8. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in the left and right hands. The score ends with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: The angels proclaim good news for all. Let us confess the sins that keep us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

All: **Gracious God, you call us to celebrate, yet we struggle to find hope in the suffering and despair of our world. What reason is there to rejoice? We turn from each other and from you, questioning the power of love in the face of the world's cruelty and hate. Comfort your people, sovereign God. Return us to the faith born this night. Save us from hopelessness. May the promise and possibility of every newborn child remind us of the salvation we have in Jesus Christ.**

Silence

Pastor: Know that we are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

No. 82
Glory to God

2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the staves. The first staff begins with a '2' before the lyrics. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: '2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.'

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

Bill and Misty Dunn

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

All: **Lord Jesus, we celebrate your birth among us again. Alleluia! Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Ave Maria”

Schubert

Hannah Ludwig

CHRISTMAS OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“Rêverie”

Claude Debussy

Zorana Randjelovic-Flores

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: God of starlit skies and quiet wonder, on this holy night we welcome the Christ child once more – with hearts full of gratitude and eyes lifted toward hope. As we gather beneath the shimmer of sanctuary lights or beside glowing fireplaces at home, remind us again that your love meets us wherever we are. That your promises arrive not in power or splendor, but in the cry of a newborn and the courage of a young mother.

Silence

Pastor: We give thanks for this story – ancient and ever new – of angels and shepherds, of good news and great joy. We rejoice in the gifts of this season: the laughter of children, the warmth of gathered families, the beauty of music echoing through cold winter air. Let our celebration not end at our tables or trees, but spill out into the world in kindness, generosity, and compassion.

Silence

Pastor: Holy One, this has been a year of both beauty and burden. In a world aching with division and fatigue, you arrive – not with judgment, but with mercy. Not to condemn, but to heal. Not in dominance, but in tenderness. You draw near to the forgotten, the weary, the displaced. You call us to do the same. Widen our welcome. Stretch our empathy. Teach us again how to love one another across differences, across fear, across the distances we've allowed to grow between us.

Silence

Pastor: Emmanuel, God-with-us: we name those who are hurting tonight. Those who grieve an empty chair at the table. Those whose hearts feel far from peace. Those overwhelmed by anxiety, addiction, illness, or isolation.

Silence

Pastor: Shine your light on all who sit in shadow. Break into the silent nights of the lonely and the lost. Bring healing where there is pain, courage where there is fear, and provision where there is need.

Silence

Pastor: Let the birth of Christ remind us that nothing is beyond redemption. Nothing so distant it cannot be drawn near. Nothing so dark that the light of Christ cannot illuminate it.

Silence

Pastor: May hope rise in us tonight – not because the world is easy, but because Christ has come. May we bear witness to love in every word, every act of care, every risk of grace. And may the wonder of this night awaken in us a holy imagination for the days ahead.

Silence

Pastor: Now, gathered as your people, we pray as Christ taught us, saying:

All: 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.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY
Told In Carols and Scripture

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Holy Night”
Hannah Ludwig

arr. Mark Hayes

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

REFLECTION

“Naming Hope”

Teri McDowell Ott

CAROL

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

No. 143

Glory to God

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
you have seen his na - tal star:
to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

No. 43

Presbyterian Hymnal

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; 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 thy 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 bless - ings of His heav - en.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear His 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 thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

SILENT REFLECTION

CAROL

“Away in a Manger”

No. 114
Glory to God



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



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



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14

SILENT REFLECTION



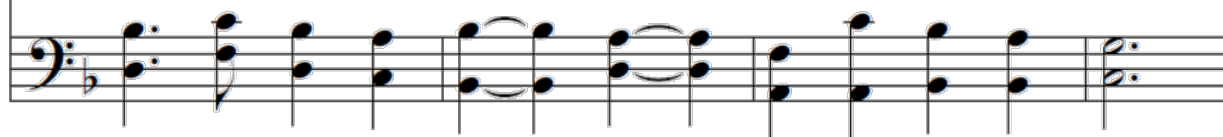
1 In the bleak mid-win-ter, frost-y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?



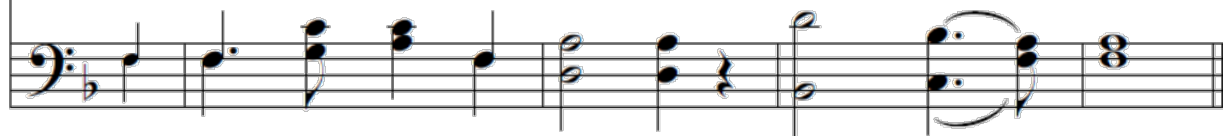
earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:
 cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-win-ter a sta-ble place suf-ficed
 but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;



⁊ in the bleak mid-win-ter, long a-go.
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.
 ⁊ wor-shipped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.



SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-20

SILENT REFLECTION

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Gesù Bambino”
Hannah Ludwig

Pietro Yon

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God. Your Spirit hovered over the waters and brought forth all creation. You breathed into us the breath of life and set us on the earth to praise and serve you. When we lost our way, you called us back, then sent your own Son to save us. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

If you are worshiping via live stream, place a plate with bread or crackers and a cup with juice, wine, water, or other common beverage in your home worship space. Wherever you are, you are invited to partake of the bread and the cup.

If you are worshiping in person, please come down the center aisle to receive the communion elements. You can choose intinction (dipping the bread into the cup) from the servers nearest the center aisle or bread and individual cups from the servers nearest the outside aisles; partake and return to your seat using the side aisles.

All communion bread is gluten free.

Ushers will bring communion to the seats of those who cannot come forward.

COMMUNION INTERLUDE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SPREADING THE LIGHT

Jesus is the light of the world. As His followers, we are called to receive His light and carry Him into the darkness of today.

Watch the light change as the light of Christ spreads among us.

CAROL

"Silent Night"

No. 122
Glory to God

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 - en - ly 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.

BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATION LEAVES IN SILENCE

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Call to Worship, Confession and Pardon, and Prayers of the People by Teri McDowell Ott © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025, adapted.

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Christmas Eve 2025

The Lord's Supper and Its Symbolism

The Lord's Supper has special significance as it commemorates the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples until he ate with them in the Kingdom of God (Luke 22:16). Bread was and is a common staple which Jesus used as a symbol for his body, broken into pieces to demonstrate giving of himself to others.

Wine was also a common staple in the first century and its consumption was part of everyday life. When Jesus shares the cup, it is a symbol of his blood shed and the sacrifice of his life for all humanity. The sharing of this very common meal was and is a way of enjoying an ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ. "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Instructions for Lighting Your Candle

As we reflect upon the light of God's love which is revealed to us in the birth of Jesus Christ, we light candles to remind us that God's love brings light in the darkness. Tonight, just prior to singing "Silent Night," all of the lights in the Sanctuary will be turned off. **When Pastor Keith and Pastor Iyan turn on their candles, you are invited to turn on your candle using the switch at the bottom symbolizing how the light of God's love comes into the world.** Please turn off your candle following the benediction and place it in a basket in the Narthex as you exit.

Silent Night, Holy Night

This Christmas hymn was originally written by Joseph Mohr for a Christmas festival at St. Nicholas Church, Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria. The story is told that the organ was not functioning the day of the service and Mohr decided to write a new hymn that would not require organ accompaniment. He took it to his friend, Franz Xaver Gruber, and asked him to write a suitable tune. The two sang the new hymn as Gruber accompanied on the guitar. The village choir joined in, repeating the last line of each stanza in four-part harmony. As we sing this hymn tonight, may we lift our voices in prayerful praise with those who have been singing this hymn since 1831.

Special Thanks

We extend our gratitude to our excellent musicians and audio/visual technicians for their dedication and hard work and for sharing their gifts with us during the season of Advent and Christmas. We especially thank pianist Zorana Randjelovic-Flores, and vocalist Hannah Ludwig as they lead us in worship tonight.

Zorana Randjelovic-Flores is an accomplished pianist, formerly serving Carmichael Presbyterian Church as Sanctuary Choir accompanist and director of the Celebration Singers. In addition to playing throughout the Sacramento area, Zorana also teaches piano.

Hannah Ludwig, mezzo-soprano, is originally from Sacramento and currently resides in Philadelphia, PA. She grew up at Carmichael Presbyterian Church and was a part of CPC's Contemporary Music Team. Hannah is a graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts and received her Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the University of the Pacific. She has performed throughout the US and Europe, recently making her UK debut with the Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras in their program, Rossini: Sacred and Profane.

Please Join Us for Worship

If you do not already have a church home, we invite you to call Carmichael Presbyterian your church home. ALL are welcome to worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in-person or online via YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@carmichaelpres>).



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