



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, 2024

11:00 p.m.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

PRELUDE

Zorana Randjelovic-Flores

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

Pastor: Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.

People: Unto us a child is born. Alleluia!

Pastor: Tonight the angels sing on earth.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

CONFESSION AND 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: The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. (Psalm 103:17)

People: Amen.

SONG

"Wait for the Lord"

No. 90
Glory to God

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song "Wait for the Lord". The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!". The music ends with a double bar line.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

Niel and Janice Nielsen

RESPONSIVE READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Reader: "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

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

Reader: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."

CHRISTMAS OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

“Ave Maria”
Hannah Ludwig

Schubert

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: God of Advent blessings and Christmas hope, we welcome the Christ child anew, grateful for all the ways you are present to us and with us.

Silence

Pastor: As we read of angels appearing to the shepherds, proclaiming good news of great joy for all the people, we rejoice at the birth of our Savior. Christ gives us good reason to celebrate; the joy of Jesus’ birth helps us resist despair, even in the face of harsh realities. We thank you, God, for the joys to be experienced this Christmas; for the delight of children, the beauty of decorated homes and sanctuaries, the comfort of delicious food, the exchange of gifts. Fill our hearts with joy, so we may overflow with love for your people.

Silence

Pastor: Savior, you break into our lives this Christmas as the embodiment of good news for all people. Your love is all inclusive. Your table is wide and long and there is always room to pull up another chair. Your hospitality is inspiring. Help us love our neighbors as you love us. In a day full of discord and division, lead us in your path of peace and teach us to share your grace. Let us learn to welcome each other as our Savior welcomes every child, open to the possibilities that might be born through authentic, loving relationships.

Silence

Pastor: O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O Root of Jesse, O Emmanuel, hear our prayers for those in pain, those who grieve, those in need of healing and restoration. May all who suffer be assured of your extravagant grace and comforted by the hope that nothing shall separate them from your love. Hear our prayers for those who are weak and weary, those who stumble through their days unable to recognize the beauty and meaning of life. May those who are unemployed, those who are struggling financially, those suffering under the crushing weight of debt, find your way out of no way. Grant them options, God. Grant them hope.

Silence

Pastor: Emmanuel, as you come to us again this Christmas, may the light of your star illuminate the world with your grace and peace. May the miracle of your birth fill us with the faith necessary for the challenges ahead. May the hope of this precious day help us to hope every day.

Silence

Pastor: Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together:

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

John 1:1-5, 9-14

SILENT REFLECTION

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”

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

“Love Has Come”

No. 110
Glory to God



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

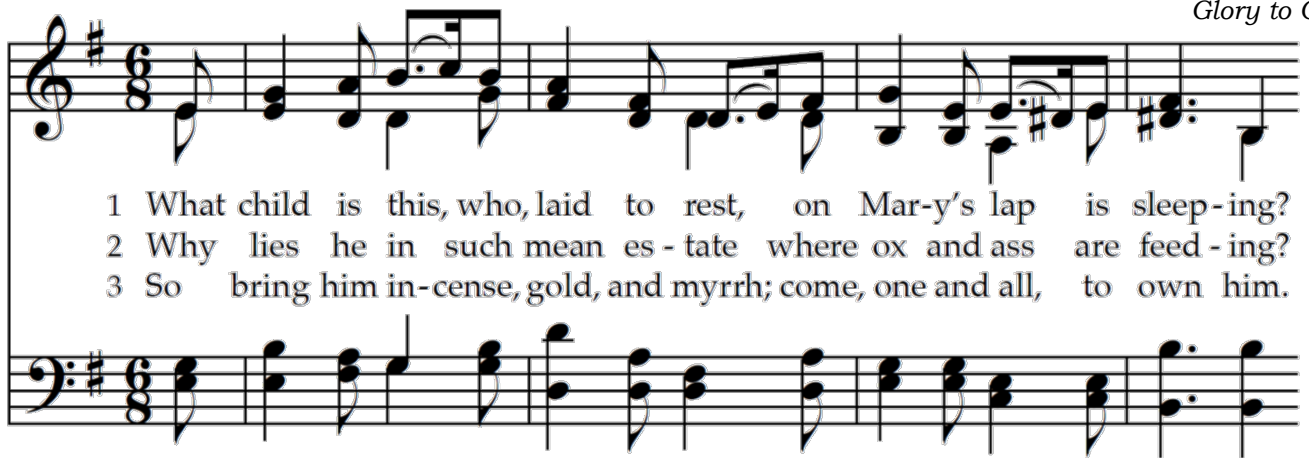


Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

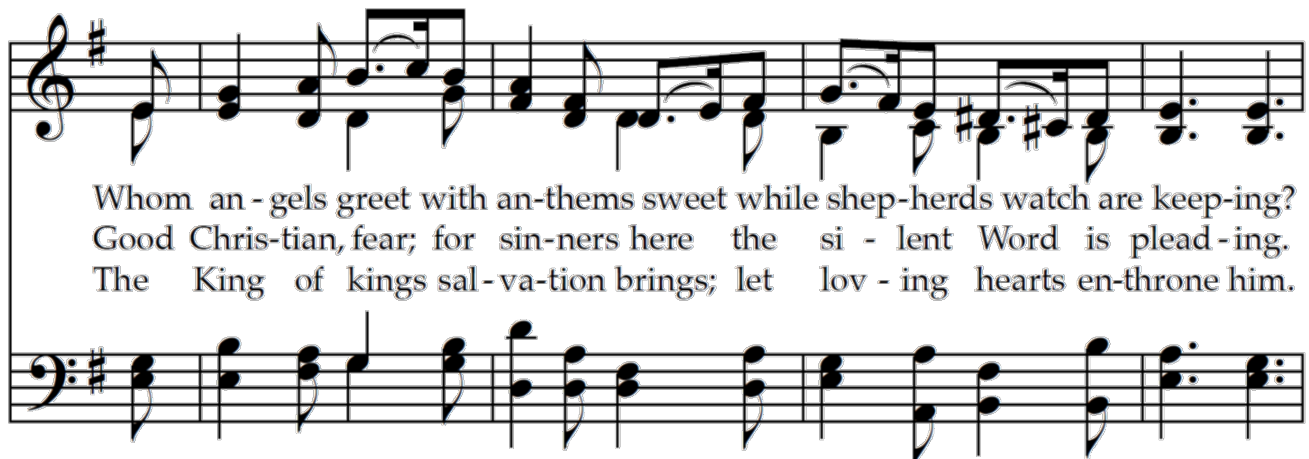
SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14

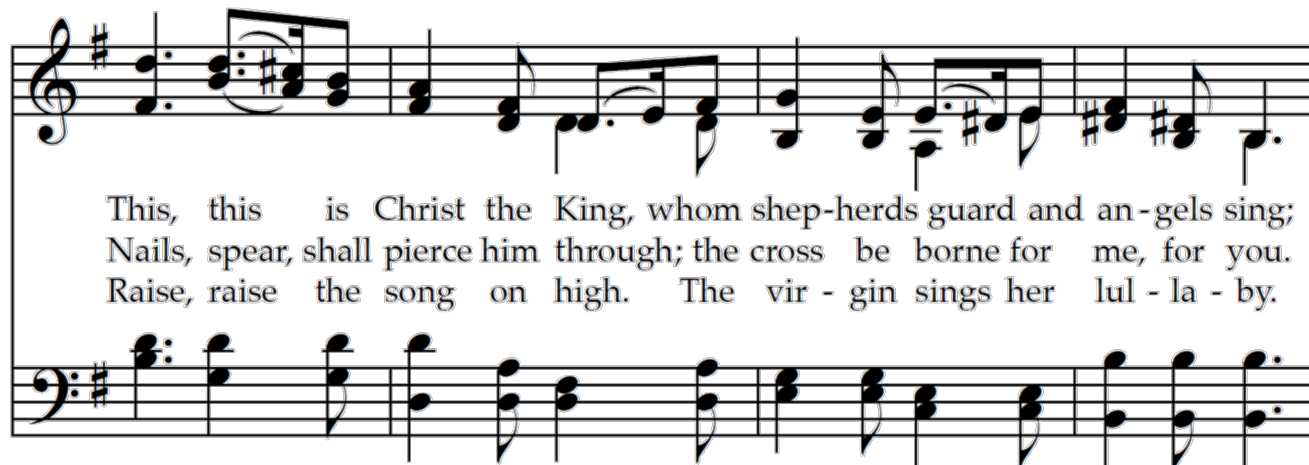
SILENT REFLECTION



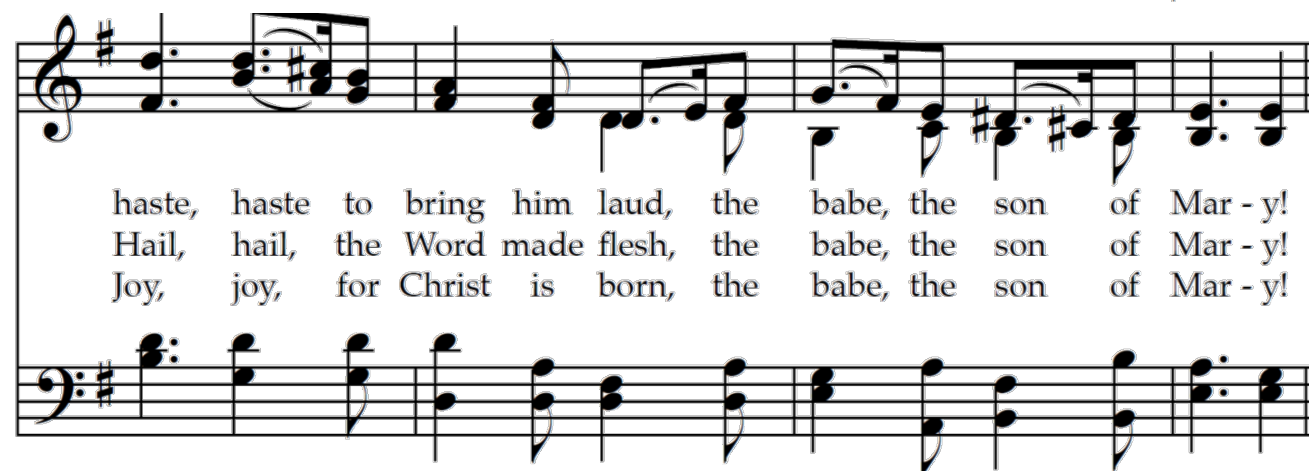
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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.

If you are worshiping in person, please come down the center aisle to receive the communion elements; partake and return to your seat using the side aisles. Ushers will bring communion to the seats of those who cannot come forward.

COMMUNION INTERLUDE

Zorana Randjelovic-Flores

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 each of us receives the light of Christ.

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 stand if you are able.

Call to Worship from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, © Westminster John Knox Press 2013.Confession and Pardon and Prayers of the People by Teri McDowell Ott © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2024, adapted.

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CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

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 Ivan 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, most recently in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* with The Metropolitan Opera in New York.

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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