

CAROLS FOR YOUR FAMILY WORSHIP

“The First Noel”

Words by Tom Fettke, Music *Aura Lee*, arr. by Tom Fettke
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*The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the king of Israel.*

“Joy to the World”

Words by Isaac Watts, Music arr. From G. F. Handel [In the Public Domain]

*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.*

“What Child is This?”

Words by William Dix [in the public domain]

*What child is this who laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laude, the babe,
the son of Mary.*

“Friendly Beasts”

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*Jesus, our brother, strong and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, strong and good.*

*“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
“I carried his mother uphill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;”
“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.*

*“I,” said the cow, all white and red,
“I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head;”
“I,” said the cow, all white and red.*

*“I,” said the sheep with curly horn,
“I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
He wore my coat on Christmas morn,”
“I,” said the sheep with curly horn.*

Welcome to **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania



5:00 P.M.

LEADING in WORSHIP

LITURGISTS: Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller, Rev. John Shellenberger

ORGANIST: Seth Wickenheiser

DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

George Canonizado & Dawn Fisher

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR : Lorette Cale

JUNIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Geri Nuss

SOUND TEAM: Fred Espenshade & Ron Nichols

ACOLYTE: Gavin Smith

Welcome, Friends,

*to First Church and to this celebration.
Christmas is a time of joy, a time of remembrance,
a time of hope, a time of sharing, a time of worship.
In this hour together we endeavor to focus
our minds and spirits on the meaning
and significance of all that is Christmas.
The God of the universe, the God of the ages,
comes to us in human form, as a baby,
not only to express God's love to us, but to save us.
It is an incredible, miraculous,
wondrous event, which we remember and celebrate.
Your presence makes this service holy
and pleasing to God. Thank you for coming.*

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2017
5:00 pm

PRELUDE....."I Saw Three Ships"..... arr. Mark Hayes

GREETING

*A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Christmas

*RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: Tonight, we conclude our Advent journey as we light the Christ Candle, welcoming the one promised in scripture.

People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

Leader: We celebrate the hope brought to earth by our Wonderful Counselor

People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

Leader: We rejoice in the strength and power of a Mighty God

People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

Leader: We sing of peace on earth and good will to all people.

People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

Leader: And we lift our hearts in praise to our Everlasting Father.

**People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!
Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

*The Lighting of the Christ Candle

*CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1, 3, 6)" 234

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain.

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using sins)

CAROLS FOR CHILDREN

..... "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1,2).....230

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

..... "Away in A Manger" 217

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till 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.

ANTHEM "C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S" Children's Choir
Words and Music by Eddy Arnold and Jenny Lou Carson

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

ANTHEM "Waiting for a King" Junior Choir
Words and Music By Joseph M. Martin

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

"The Advent of Our God" arr. Edward Broughton

*RESPONSE "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

CANDLELIGHTING

*CAROL Silent Night, Holy Night (vs. 1-4) 239

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 a-far,
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!

*THE BLESSING

*(The worshipers' candles are extinguished
when the Pastor's candle is extinguished.)*

*CAROL "Joy to the World" 246

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 all their 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.

POSTLUDE

..... "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" arr. Mark Hayes

**Please stand if able.*

*Please remember to take your poinsettia home with you
after the service.*

