

Worship for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2011 – Eleven O'clock in the Evening

Greeting

Gene Derryberry

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Organ Voluntary

"Silent Night! Holy Night"

setting by David Conte

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sarah Coffey, Sally Goodwin

Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life.

The Promise is fulfilled!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight.

The Light of the World has come.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

And this light is a light for all –

igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating love,

lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh

within us and among us now and always.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

+ Carol 173

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

+ Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Paul Sims

+ Response

HYFRYDOL

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,

Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

– Charles Wesley, 18th century

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Nathan Hopper

Carol 171

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

Sara Spahr Stubbs

Hymn 271

"Christ Is Coming! Let Creation"

CWM RHONDDA

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Nikki Taylor

+ Spiritual

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. REFRAIN
The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. REFRAIN
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. REFRAIN*

The Fourth Lesson

John 1:1-5, 14

Gene Derryberry

Carol

“O Holy Night”

by Adolphe Adam

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, his power and glory evermore proclaim.*

– John Dwight, 19th century

+ Affirmation of Faith

Sara Spahr Stubbs

***We believe that on this glad night Deity was cradled in a manger,
that there was Emmanuel, God-with-us. We believe that this one
is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We call
him Jesus for he has saved us from our sins.
We believe that Jesus is God-for-us, our Savior and Friend. We believe
he is the Prince of Peace, the very Word of God made flesh to dwell
among us, and that as we receive him we become children of God.
We believe that he is not only God of our lives, but also Lord of the world.
In him, and for him all things were made.
We believe he is the Light of the World, the King of all kings.
Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Alleluia! Amen.***

The Celebration of Communion

Opening Sentences

Sara Spahr Stubbs

The Peace

Paul Sims

*The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.*

Words of Institution

Gene Derryberry

Music During Communion:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

*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 men on earth.
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven!
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

– Phillips Brooks, 19th century

"Away In a Manger"

CRADLE SONG

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright 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 side until 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.*

– 19th century

Prayer After Communion

Paul Sims

+ Carol 146

"Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come"

ANTIOCH

stanzas 1 and 4

+ Carol

"Silent Night! Holy Night"

STILLE NACHT

*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! darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing, "Alleluia! Hail the King!
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.*

– Joseph Mohr, 19th century

+ Benediction

Gene Derryberry

Organ Postlude

"Variations on ADESTE FIDELES"

by Marcel Dupre

† † †

+ Those who are able may stand

Assisting in tonight's service of worship are:

D. Gene Derryberry, Intentional Interim Minister

Paul M. Sims, Associate Minister

Sara Spahr Stubbs, Associate Minister

Timothy Belflowers, Organist

Nathan Hopper, Nikki Taylor, Readers

Ushers will be at exits to receive an offering that will benefit
the Union County Community Homeless Shelter

Please join us for worship on Christmas morning at 10:45