

# CARROLLTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

### Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2020 – 5:00 P. M.



#### MUSICAL MEDITATION

O Holy Night  
Bryant Hand, piano

Adolphe Adam

#### CENTERING PRAYER

Where refugees seek deliverance that never comes,  
and the heart consumes itself, if it would live,  
Where little children age before their time,  
And life wears down the edges of the mind,  
Where the old man sits with mind grown cold,

While bones and sinew, blood and cell, go slowly down to death,  
Where fear companions each day's life,  
And Perfect Love seems long delayed.  
CHRISTMAS IS WAITING TO BE BORN:  
In you, in me, in all (hu)mankind.”

*Howard Thurman (The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations)*

## **WELCOME**

Mark McCord

We now turn to the sacred story of the birth of Christ, the Messiah as told  
through scripture and song.

## **PRELUDE**

Come Now, O Savior of the Peoples Come, BWV 659 J. S. Bach  
Dawn McCord, organ

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mark McCord

On this holiest of nights,  
    **We come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.**  
On this most silent night,  
    **We come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and  
    Joseph.**  
On this night of carols and candlelight,  
    **we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over  
    us.**

*Call to Worship is from Thom M. Shuman's book, Where the Broken Gather © 2014*

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE**

Matt, Dena, and Campbell Wilson

## **CAROL**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133

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!

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;  
    Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
    Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O come let us adore him;  
    O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

CPC Ensemble, songleaders

**FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Bill Hearnburg

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

Aaron D. Miller

Lift up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates  
Devon Hill, trumpet  
Dawn McCord, organ

**SECOND LESSON**

Isaiah 11:1-3a; 4a,6-9

Betty Williams

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
With righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

**CAROL**

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

129

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas fore-told it, the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

CPC Ensemble, songleaders

**THIRD LESSON**

Luke 1:26-35,38

Mike Handyside

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

Jean-François Dandrieu

Noël: Or nous dites Marie (Now Tell Us Mary)

Dawn McCord, organ

## FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1; 3-7

Candy Rader Horsley

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 for them in the inn.

## CAROL

Away in a Manger

115

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

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.

CPC Ensemble, songleaders

## FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

David Weiner

In that 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. 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. 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.

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

Shepherd's Pipe Carol  
Brianna Cunningham and Mimi Gentry, duet

John Rutter

**SIXTH LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-11

Pat Sheffield

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

O Little Town of Bethlehem  
CPC Handbell Quartet  
Brianna Cunningham (director), Linda Handyside,  
Candy Rader, Patti Stewart

ST. LOUIS

**SEVENTH LESSON**

John 1:1-14

Rev. Michael Moore

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a

witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

Adolphe Adam

O Holy Night  
Tony Colpini, tenor

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Invitation to light candles at home

## **CLOSING CAROL**

Silent Night, Holy Night

Franz Gruber

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 afar  
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 dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

## **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**