

THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS EVE

Lessons, Carols and Candles

December 24, 2021

7:30 pm

*And did it happen
that all of this was meant to be –
that God, from distance,
should choose to be set free;
and show uniqueness,
transformed in weakness,
that I might touch Him and He touch me?*

John Bell

PRELUDES

*Magnificat V, Op. 18, No. 4
Away in a Manger
Shepherds at the Manger*

Marcel Dupré
arr. McNeff
Franz Lizst

THE CANDLE OF CHRIST

One Candle Is Lit (Verse 5)

CRADLE SONG

**Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear,
And signs of a cross in the distance appear.
The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.
One candle is lit for the Christ birthday here.**

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CAROL NO. 148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

[Click here to see hymn](#)

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Michael Newheart

Good and Gracious God, we gather ourselves tonight before the miracle of your presence and the promise of your love. As we come, we thank you for all of the gifts of life that you have opened to us, and most especially for the gift of Jesus, whose birth we remember in the candled dark. Help us to welcome him gladly, to make room for him eagerly in our lives, and to sing with such joy that all people will know the story of his coming. So may we follow together in his way, live at peace with one another, and be in good will with all the world. In the name of the Christmas Child. Amen.

Arthur E. Teale

THE CHRISTMAS PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Amie Giguere

CAROL NO. 149

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

[Click here to see hymn](#)

YOU SHALL CALL HIM JESUS

Matthew 1:18-25

Liz Oman-Wilfrid

ANTHEM

O Little Town of Bethlehem
First Church Choir

Walford Davies

THE GOOD NEWS

Luke 2:1-14

Amie Giguere

ANTHEM

Gesu Bambino
First Church Choir, Michelle Gara, soloist

Pietro Yon

MORE GOOD NEWS

Luke 2:15-20

Liz Oman-Wilfrid

CAROL NO. 150

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

[Click here to see hymn](#)

A CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas Offering will benefit Veterans of the Cross and Hungerfighters.

Offertory

The Huron Carol

First Church Choir

To Give an Online Offering Now: <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give>

Or Give by Text: Text *GIVE* to (860) 222-7870. Click [here](#) to watch a demo video.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-18

Michael Newheart

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHARED

Michael Newheart and Amie Giguere

CAROL NO. 145

Silent Night, Holy Night

[Click here to see hymn](#)

BENEDICTION

Michael Newheart

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo

J. S. Bach

The members of the Brass Quintet joining us for this service include:

Jeffrey Albright and Matthew Carley, trumpets

Nathan Suarez, horn, Chris Schrock, trombone, and David Winer, tuba