



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Liturgy

December 24, 2021

6:00 & 8:30 pm

Due to COVID precautions, we are asking everyone in the congregation to remain masked, and to enjoy listening to the readings and music.

The service will begin ten minutes prior to 6:00 and 8:30 pm, with special music.

PRELUDES (6:00 pm)

Noëls pour les instruments *Marc-Antoine Charpentier*
Guiomar Turgeon, violinist; John Finney, organist

What Songs Were Sung *John Jacob Niles*
Stephen Lebrón, baritone

Sing We Now of Christmas *arr. Anna Laura Page*
The Hills Bells; Martha Stowell, Director

The Little Road to Bethlehem *Michael Head*
Michael Calmés, tenor

PRELUDES (8:30 pm)

What Songs Were Sung *John Jacob Niles*
Stephen Lebrón, baritone

Noëls pour les instruments *Marc-Antoine Charpentier*
Guiomar Turgeon, violinist

The Little Road to Bethlehem *Michael Head*
Michael Calmés, tenor

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Rev. Richard Edens

LIGHTING OF THE WREATH

CHRISTMAS PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, our hearts leap for joy with the glad tidings of Jesus' birth.
May your Spirit move among us as we listen to the story,
as we read and sing, and as we go forth with courage and conviction
to live into the new creation being birthed this night. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Brad Tomlinson

ANTHEM: I Wonder as I Wander

Appalachian carol, arr. John Jacob Niles

Chancel Choir; Michael Calmés, tenor

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die,
For poor on'ry people like you and like I, I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it then did recall.
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, he surely could have it,
'Cause he was the King.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die,
For poor on'ry people like you and like I, I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

Reader (6:00 pm): Marilyn Nutting

Reader (8:30 pm): Barbara Farmer

ANTHEM (6:00 pm): Away in a Manger

arr. Anna Laura Page

The Hills Bells; Martha Stowell, Director

SOLO (8:30 pm): The Virgin's Slumber-Song
Shannon Lebrón, mezzo-soprano

Max Reger

*Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus-child,
While amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild
And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon a bough:
Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now!
Happy is Thy laughter, holy is Thy silent rest,
Lay Thy head in slumber fondly on Thy Mother's breast.
Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now!*

ANTHEM: Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head
Chancel Choir

Appalachian carol, arr. Paul Christensen

*Winds were blowing, stars were glowing,
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed;
All the other kings on earth sleep in feathers at their birth;
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, gently on a manger bed.
Have you heard about our Jesus? How he came, the King of all?
Born to Mary, lowly mother in a humble cattle stall.
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed.
To that manger came three Wise-men, bringing gifts from hin and yon,
For the mother and the father and blessed little Son.
Shepherds left their fields and flocks, sat beside the ass and ox.
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed.*

THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:8-14

Reader (6:00 pm): Elaine Vildzius
Reader (8:30 pm): Susie Alexander

ANTHEM: Ding Dong, Merrily on High

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Chancel Choir & The Hills Bells; Martha Stowell, Director (6:00 pm only):

Ding dong, merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing,

Ding dong, verily the sky is riven with angel singing:

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,

And io, io, io by priest and people sungen.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, you ringers,

May you beautifully rhyme your eve-time song, you singers.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:15-20

Reader: Laurie Otten

SERMON: "When Jesus Starts to Show"

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens

LIGHTING OF THE CANDELABRA

ANTHEM: Gesú Bambino

Pietro Yon

Chancel Choir; Garrett Murphy, baritone

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night

Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,

And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night

That gave the world its Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.

Let every voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell,

From paradise to earth He came, that we with Him might dwell.

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Judy Swahnberg

ANTHEM: Cantique de Noël (O Holy Night)
Chancel Choir; Laurie Stewart Otten, soprano

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 soul 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!
O night, O holy night! O night divine!*

PROCESSION TO THE FRONT LAWN

INTERLUDE: Noël X

Louis-Claude Daquin

* THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Rev. Richard Edens

Please follow the "Christ Candle" pastors, and choir to the outside where you will receive a candle. Once you are on the lawn, your candle will be lit off the Christ Candle and passed on to your neighbor, and we will sing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

* CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

One: I am the light of the world, says the Lord, those that follow me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life.

All: **Arise, shine, for your light has come; the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

Isaiah 9:2; John 8:12; Isaiah 60:1

* CAROL: Silent Night, Holy Night (as printed)

Stille Nacht

* BENEDICTION

Please return your candle to the designated containers.



The Hills Bells

Martha Stowell, Director
Susan Holm, JoAnna McKinney,
Lucy O'Mara, Judy Nitsch, Beth Ross,
Ronee Skornik, Chris Stowell, Katie Stowell,
Guiomar Turgeon, Elaine Vildzius, Libby Zobel

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“What Songs Were Sung,” by John Jacob Niles

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“Sing We Now of Christmas,” arranged by Anna Laura Page

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Silent Night, Holy Night

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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;
 (1.) *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar. Hol - der Kna - be im lock - i - gen Haar,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, c. 1863
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.

Written for Christmas eve in Oberndorf, Upper Austria, when the break-down of the organ made a change in worship appropriate, this beloved carol was first sung by a girls' choir, accompanied by Mohr on the guitar (while singing tenor) with Gruber singing bass.

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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Alto Soloist	Shannon Lebrón
Tenor Soloist	Christian Figueroa
Bass Soloist	Garrett Murphy
Sound Technician	Kenny Goshgarian
Sound Technician	Steven Hopkins

GOD
IS STILL
SPEAKING

WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION.
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.