

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Christmas Eve (December 24, 2020)
A Service of Scripture, Sharing and Song

WELCOME

A word about this evening's service

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

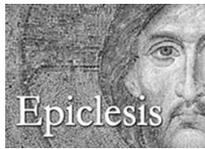
**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for your glory.**

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord;

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*The Gloria in excelsis deo ("Glory to God in the highest")
is an ancient hymn of the early church.*





Sussex Carol (On Christmas Night)

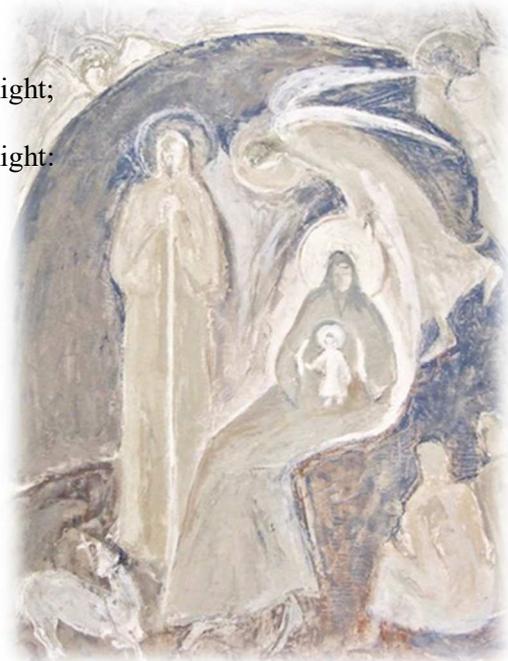
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

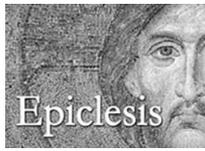
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad?
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place:
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn king.

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore;
Evermore, Amen.”

Traditional English carol.
Hymn tune: SUSSEX CAROL.





INVOCATION

Good and gracious God,
On this holy Eve You gave us Your Son,
the Lord of the universe,
wrapped in swaddling clothes,
the Savior of all, lying in a manger.

*On this holy Eve
draw us into the mystery of Your love.
Join our voices with the heavenly host,
that we may sing Your glory on high.*

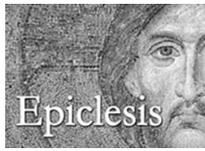
Give us a place among the shepherds,
that we may find the One
for whom we have waited,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
in the splendor of eternal light.
God forever and ever. Amen.

Silent Night

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,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
At the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth;
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Public domain. Text: Joseph Mohr, c. 1816
(transl. from German by John F. Young).
Hymn tune: Franz Gruber, c. 1820.



FIRST READING Isaiah 9:1-7

Meditation (Pastor Rick)

The First Noel

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.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

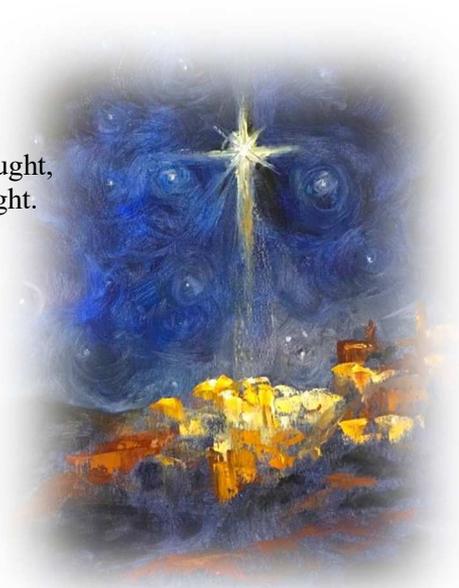
They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the East, beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

Refrain

Traditional English carol, 13th century.
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SECOND READING Luke 2:8-20

Meditation (Pastor Ellen)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

God of God, Light from Light;
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created.

O come let us adore Him...

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God in the highest!

O come let us adore Him...

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesu, to Thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

O come let us adore Him...

Words: John Francis Wade, c. 1743. Transl. verses 1-3 from Latin: Frederick Oakley, 1841.
Hymn tune: ADESTE FIDELES. (attribution uncertain)



THIRD READING John 1:1-4, 14; Hebrews 1:1-3

Meditation (Pastor Chris)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
*We light this candle because Jesus,
the true Light of the world,
was born on this day,
and He gives light to all things.*

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world –
A light no darkness can extinguish.



SENDING FORTH

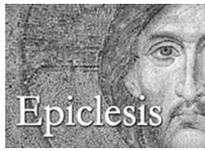
Prayer

Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light, we were in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turned to You.
Make us your own, Your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church sent forth today.

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell; © OCP Publications 1998



Blessing

Benediction

Jesus, from the beginning, is the Word, made flesh in our midst.

May His incarnation fill our hearts with joy and peace.

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.

May His birth among us renew our hope.

Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

May the gift of His presence bring forth rejoicing.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen! Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: *Joy to the World*

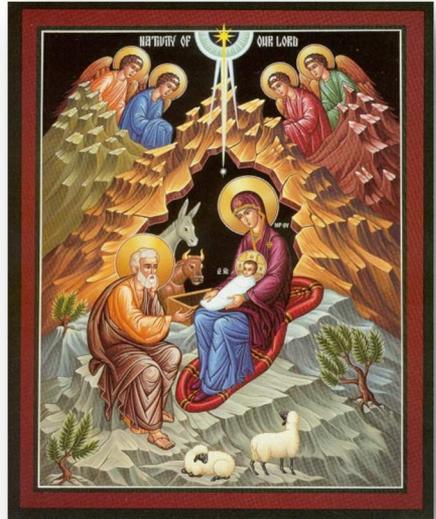


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Sunday mornings at The Carmichael Chapel, 4600 Winding Way
(Corner of Winding Way and Pasadena), Sacramento, CA 95841.

Informal gathering: 10:00 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM.

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