



Kenilworth Union Church
The Eve of Christ's Nativity

December 24, 2020

4 p.m.

[Click here to join Worship](#)

PRELUDE

Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne

CALL TO WORSHIP

A Child of the Snows

G.K. Chesterton

There is heard a hymn when the panes are dim,
And never before or again,
When the nights are strong with a darkness long,
And the dark is alive with rain.

Never we know but in sleet and in snow
The place where the great fires are.
That the midst of the earth is a raging mirth
And the heart of the earth a star.

And at night we win to the ancient inn
Where the child in the frost is furled,
We follow the feet where all souls meet
At the inn at the end of the world.

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

John Frances Wade

1. 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!

2. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the father,
Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

3. 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!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession
The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1–5

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Joy to the World!

George F. Handel

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
Joy to the world! The savior reigns;
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN EVANGELIST

John 1:1–5, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was in the beginning with God.
³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being
⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁴ 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.

MEDITATION

*Advent Practices for the Shortest Days and Darkest Nights, VI:
Embrace the Darkness*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

O Holy Night

Adolphe C. Adam, 1803–1856

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! Oh 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.

BRINGING OF CHRIST THE LIGHT TO THE WORLD

John 8:12

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

CLOSING HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

Franz Z. Gruber

1. 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.

2. 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."

3. 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.

BENEDICTION

And so this Christmas,
I wish you a candle against the night,

