



Kenilworth Union Church
The Eve of Christ's Nativity
December 24, 2022
3, 6, and 9 p.m.

CONNECT TO WORSHIP at 3 and 6 p.m.

Prelude

Brass Selections

Call to Worship

“A Christmas Hymn”

Richard Wilbur, 1921–2017

A stable lamp is lighted
Whose glow shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices,
And every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
And straw like gold shall shine,
A barn shall harbor heaven,
A stall become a shrine...

And now, as at the ending
The low is lifted high;
The stars shall bend their voices,
And every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry
In praises of the child
By whose descent among us
The worlds are reconciled.

***Processional Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**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!**

**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!**

**2. True God from true God, light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!**

**4. 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!**

Lighting the Advent and Christ Candles

The Christ Candle

Lector: Come, walk in the light.

People: Jesus is the light of the world.

Lector: Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

People: We light this Christ candle.

Lector: Let the light of the Christ child shine in our hearts and homes. Let us pray:

All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace you arrive this silent, holy night and all creation sings of your marvelous works. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; The light of the world arrives this night. Marvel upon marvel and glory upon glory spread across the land. Jesus Christ is born!

Ministry of Music

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne, arr. Harry Simeone

Said the night wind to the little lamb, "Do you see what I see?
'Way up in the sky, little lamb. Do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite."
Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, "Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song, high above the tree, with a voice as big as the sea."
Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, "Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king, do you know what I know?
A child, a child, shivers in the cold, let us bring him silver and gold."
Said the king to people everywhere, "Listen to what I say:
Pray for peace, people everywhere! Listen to what I say:
The child, the child, sleeping in the night, he will bring us goodness and light."

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.**

Ministry of Music

The Hands that First Held Mary's Child

Dan Forrest

3 and 9 p.m.

The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood.
From boards they sawed and planed and filed, and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
But cradled from the head to heel, our Lord, newborn and frail.
When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,
And gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,
The angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,
And like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.
"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,
But God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,
And from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.
The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
And use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,
But charged with faith may we be bold to follow in his way.

Ministry of Music

This Christmastide (Jessye's Carol)

Donald Fraser

6 p.m.

Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old,
Refrain
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide.
Holly, ivy, mistletoe, and the gently falling snow, *Refrain*
From a simple ox's stall came the greatest gift of all, *Refrain*
Children sing of peace and joy at the birth of one small boy, *Refrain*
Let the bells ring loud and clear, ring out now for all to hear, *Refrain*
Trumpets sound and voices raises in an endless stream of praise, *Refrain*
Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old,
Peace and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide.

The Bringing of Gifts to Christ the King

Welcome

The Offering of Tithes

Offertory

“For unto us a child is born” from *Messiah*

George F. Handel

Proclamation of the Nativity

Luke 2:1–14

A Medley of Christmas Carols

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!	Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let earth receive her king;	Let all their songs employ,
Let every heart prepare him room,	While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
And heaven and nature sing,	Repeat the sounding joy,
And heaven and nature sing,	Repeat the sounding joy,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.	Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Reflection

A Barn Shall Harbor Heaven

A Christmas Duet

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! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.	Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming Here came the wise men from the Orient land. The king of kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend. He knows our need—to our weakness no stranger. Behold your king! Before him lowly bend!
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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.

