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UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Fusion Church
December 24, 2020

PRELUDE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. John Innes

WELCOME

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5

INTROIT

“Canticle of the Turning/O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

traditional

Harpsichord, Laurel Buckwalter; viola, John Buckwalter; mandolin, Laurie DeMott

O sing a song of Bethlehem,

Of shepherds watching there,

And of the news that came to them

From angels in the air:

The light that shone on Bethlehem

Fills all the world today;

Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth

The angels sing alway.

LITANY OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: How we long for peace for our troubled spirits.

People: There are wounded places in our hearts that yearn to be healed. There are relationships in our lives in need of repair. We have spoken thoughtlessly, carelessly, even at times in anger; words that we regret and hope can be forgiven. Christmas promises peace, and we confess that we are a people in need of peace.

Leader: How we long for peace for our troubled world.

People: We listen to the reports of violence in our nation, children filled with cynicism born of poverty, racial hatred and bigotry, and we feel so keenly the pain of a broken world. We see war all around – nation against nation, humanity against the earth, class against class – and we confess that this is truly a world in need of peace.

Leader: Christmas promises peace. Christ was proclaimed the Prince of Peace and he told us that those who make peace will be blessed and called God’s children.

People: How we long to believe in the promise of Christmas. Here we stand on the brink of Christmas, wanting to believe, hardly daring to believe, yet needing to believe that peace is possible.

Leader: O come, Emmanuel, God-with-us, and pour upon us tonight your peace.

HYMN #211

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.

Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

READING

“The Cure of Troy”

*by Seamus Heaney***SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 2:68-79

LITANY OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Unto us a child is born!

People: Unto us a son is given!

Leader: And the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called:

People: Wonderful Counselor!

Leader: Mighty God!

People: Everlasting Father!

Leader: Prince of Peace!

People: Gloria!

Leader: Gloria!

All: GLORIA!!!

HYMN #246

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its king;
let ev’ry heart prepare him room, and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

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.

THE NATIVITY STORY**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 2:1-7

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Joyful, Joyful”

*Beethoven, arr. Peter O’Connor***SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 2:8-14

SPECIAL MUSIC“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child” *traditional/vocalist Luanne Crosby***SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 2:1-12

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Rejoice and Be Merry” from an old Church Gallery Book
Please join on the chorus with a percussion instrument of your choice — jingle bells, rattles, pots, pans, shaking your keys.....

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION WITH DEXTER

HYMN #238

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise,
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

To the bidding, “God of wondrous love,” please respond, “Be near to all this night.”

RESPONSIVE STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Leader: As Christ has brought joy to our hearts, let us pledge to share this joy with all: I pledge Joy to those with whom I love to be,

People: Joy to those who trouble me,

Leader: Joy to beings far and near,

People: Joy to those who still wait to hear.

Leader: Joy when the light shines full in its grace,

People: Joy even though the shadows fall upon my face.

Leader: I make this pledge this Christmastide;

People: In the joy of Christ I will abide.

Leader: May we who have been blessed by the power of this night be blessing to all that we encounter so that those who wait may one day say too,

People: “My hope is fulfilled and my joy is full.”

All: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

“Silent Night”

Organ meditation

While the candleabras are lit in the sanctuary, people at home may light their candles

READING

from “Christmas Eve” by the Reverend William Willimon

HYMN #239

“Silent Night”

Mobr/ vocalist Luanne Crosby

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

arr. Lani Smith

Lay Leaders: Larry Casey, Catherine Chambers

Organist: Laurel Buckwalter

Pianist: Peter O'Connor

Special Music: John & Laurel Buckwalter, Laurie DeMott, Luanne Crosby

Zoom Co-Host: John Buckwalter