

Order of Worship
December 17th 2023 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, and Peace

Call to Worship

Sing praises to God on high, for glorious are God's works.
Sing praises to the ends of the earth.
Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,
for great is the Holy One in our midst,
blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

What Child Is This
RH #281

Verse 1

What Child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels
sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

Verse 2

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christian fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels
sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

Verse 3

So bring Him incense gold and
myrrh
Come peasant king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels
sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

Unknown, William Chatterton Dix
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Advent Wreath Lighting – Week 3

**Blessed are we who wait with bated breath,
Who wait for something new to be born –
For new hope or new joy or new life.**

**Blessed are we whose patience grows thinner by the day.
We who are tired of the world as it is –
in all of its heartache and loss and hopelessness.
We who want more. More hope. More joy. More life.**

**Surprise us with joy in the midst of the mundane,
With abundance in the midst of scarcity,
Presence in the midst of Christmas chaos.**

**We have quieted our souls to listen, to wait for you, Oh God,
For your word-made-flesh is life to us.**

Emmanuel, Jesus the Christ, come and dwell among us. Fill us with your courage. Calm us with your love.
Fortify us with your hope.

Amen.

~ by Kate Bowler

Opening Prayer

God of birth, God of light, in this time of song and prayer and silence, reawaken in us the awe of Christmas. As we hear again the story of a young woman and a surprising visitor, remind us that we are called to respond to you in unexpected ways. And when we leave this place, may we be willing to sing praises for a young woman who said YES and the birth that we prepare to celebrate.

Amen.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Away In A Manger (Cradle Song)

RH #261

Verse 1

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His
sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked
down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the
hay

Verse 2

The cattle are lowing the Baby
awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He
makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down
from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is
nigh

Verse 3

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee
to stay
Close by me forever and love me I
pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy
tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with
Thee there

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The First Noel

RH #265

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

They looked 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

Chorus

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Chorus

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

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Angels We Have Heard On High (Gloria)

RH #278

Verse 1

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains

Verse 3

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

Chorus

Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

Chorus

Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

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Edward Shippen Barnes | James Chadwick

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We Three Kings (Kings Of Orient)
RH #288

Verse 1

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain moor and mountain
Following yonder star

Chorus

O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Verse 5

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and sacrifice
Alleluia alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies

Chorus

O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Silent Night (Stille Nacht)
RH #253

Verse 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

Verse 2

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Verse 4

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

Go Tell It On The Mountain
RH #258

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain

Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Verse 2

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere

Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And brought us God's salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

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Offertory & Presentation of the Gifts

O Holy Night

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost
Amen

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Thomas Ken

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Blessing of the Bread & Wine

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion

Closing Hymn

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
RH #251

Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Verse 2

Still thro' the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

Verse 3

And ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing

Verse 4

For lo the days are hastening on
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing

Edmund Hamilton Sears, Richard Storrs Willis

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Closing Prayer

When does an ordinary life become extraordinary, a mundane day become revolutionary, a moment in time change history? When God enters in, forgives sin, allows us to begin again; Teach us obedience, Lord, in every part of our lives: ears to hear Your word, hands to do Your work, feet to walk Your path, a heart for all Your people, a mouth to shout Your praise, a childlike faith, humility, and confidence that says to the possible and to the impossible: 'for great is the Holy One in our midst, blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.' **Amen.**

Blessing

Postlude

Our love in action now begins

This Sunday's Special Music is brought to you by
Children of the Snowmass Chapel;
Ben Belinski & Julia Holoman,
Michael Schoepe & Paul Dankers.

Thank you to all of this Sunday's volunteers!

Altar - Sue de Campo
Advent Candle & Greeters - Strecker Family

For current events, visit the "current events" drop-down via the CALENDAR tab on our website, or sign up to receive our weekly newsletter email via the "newsletter sign-up" dropdown under the CONTACT tab at www.snowmasschapel.org.