Christmas Eve 5:30pm
24 December 2008

Following the God made known
in the life and teachings of Jesus…

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PRELUDE "What Can We Bring?" Mark Patterson
Anna Dodson, soloist

*LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

One: Grant us the courage to hope.
Hope for your presence, your promise, your peace.
Grant us the courage to make peace.
Peace in our hearts, our homes, our communities.
Grant us the courage to experience joy.
Joy in the face of apathy, of sorrow, of uncertainty.
Grant us the courage to share your love.
Love for the unexpected challenge,
the vulnerable one, the presence of God.
Peace, hope, joy and love.
Christmas comes to us once more.

*RESPONSE "Jesus, Jesus" Traditional

Jesus, Jesus, oh what a beautiful child!
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, the child will bring.
Listen, to the angles sing: Glory, glory, glory!
Let the heavens ring!

CHOIR "Bethlehem Night" Terry Taylor
Children's Choir

CHRISTMAS LITANY

One: May our time together lead us to the peace of the season.
Many: May our hearts embrace the wonder of our story.

One: Like the wandering couple,
Many: May we find that our joys emerge from our trials.

One: Like the harried innkeeper,
Many: May we find ways to help others.

One: Like the lumbering beasts,
Many: May we be silent witnesses to awe.

One: Like the shepherds on the hill,
Many: May we not be afraid.

One: Like the journeying wise,
Many: May we have the courage to follow our stars.

One: Like the angels,
Many: May we cry peace to a troubled world.

One: May this season of peace and goodwill
nudge our world towards its ideals,
Many: Then will Christmas truly dawn.

Adapt. C. Robinson

INVOCATION "A Time Will Come for Singing" Dan Schutte
Folk Choir

A time will come for singing
When all your tears are shed,
When sorrows chains are broken,
And broken hearts shall mend.
The deaf will hear your singing
When silent tongues are freed.
The lame will join your dancing
When blind eyes learn to see.

A time will come for singing
When trees will raise their boughs,
When all lay down their armor,
And hammer their swords into plows,
When beggars lives as princes
And orphans find their homes,
When prison calls are emptied
And hatred has grown old.

A time will come for singing
A hymn by hearts fortold,
That kings have sought for ages,
And treasured more than gold.
Its lyrics turn to silver
When sung in harmony.
The Lord of Love will teach us
To sing its melody

—"A Time Will Come for Singing"
by Dan Shutte

We welcome you on this Christmas Eve.

We are pleased that you have chosen to be with us this evening as we celebrate the joy of Christmas.

A word about our Christmas hymns…

While we treasure the language and imagery of the New Century Hymnal, we know that the words we learned as children are precious to us as well. We invite you to sing the Christmas hymns with whatever words are most familiar and beloved for you.

THE PAGEANT

INTRODUCTION

CAROL 135 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Adeste Fideles

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;
Refrain:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

STORY Beginning with St. Francis of Assissi

CAROL 17 "All Creatures of our God and King" St. Francis

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!
O praise God! O praise God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

STORY 'Emmanuel'

CAROL 116 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Veni Emmanual

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

STORY Bethlehem

CAROL 133 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" St. Louis

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.

STORY The Innkeeper

CAROL 148 "What Child Is This" Greensleeves

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.

STORY Extravagant Welcome

CAROL 124 "Away in a Manger" Away in a Manger

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

STORY — Angel Choirs

CAROL 125 — "Angels We Have Heard on High" — Gloria

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

STORY — Shepherds Come

CAROL 139 — "The First Noel" — 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 tending their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

STORY — King Herod's Court

CAROL — "We Three Kings" — John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

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

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect life.

STORY — Beneath the Star

CAROL 134 — "Silent Night, Holy Night" — Stille Nacht

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!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia:
Christ, the Savior, is born,
Christ, the Savior, is born!"

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.

Once again I'm falling to my knees
And now this feeling is spreading like a disease
This place is so pathetic
Doesn't anybody get it?
Is there anybody home?
There's nothing left
We're just a shadow of what we used to be...

In the night
There's a fire in my eyes
And this paradise has become a place we've come to cry
When I open your letter, the words make it better
It takes it all away
It keeps me holding on

Here we are pretending we're okay
The lies we're living
It's all a masquerade
So how'd we get so jaded?
Is it so complicated to not give up on me?

Whenever I need you
Wherever I run to
I know where to find you
It keep me holding on...
You keep me holding on, on, on...

—"Holding On"
by Simple Plan

We praise you, hidden God,
that in one most vulnerable
you have come to us
to speak your Word of love and life.
Touch us with unearthly joy,
like the singing of angels;
fill us with wonder,
like the eyes of children;
teach us to humble ourselves
before you,
like the worshiping magi.
May our journey to the manger
be only the beginning
of a lifetime of service to you.
Amen.

Ruth Duck,
"Bread for the Journey"

Please join us again...

Tonight at 11:00pm we will gather for a candle light worship.

Each Sunday morning we gather for worship at 8:30am and 11:00am.

Church School begins again on January 4 at 9:45am.

PRAYER

One: Dear God,
please give to us

the unquestioning faith of Mary
the tolerance of Joseph
the patience of the donkey
the kindness of the innkeeper
the reverence of the oxen
the joy of the angels
the obedience of the shepherds
the perseverance of the wise men

the Christ-child in our hearts today

Heather Johnston,
"Shine On, Star of Bethlehem"

SHARING OUR GIFTS

The congregation is invited to share gifts for our shared ministry.

"Holding On" — Simple Plan
Youth Band

*HYMN 132 — "Joy to the World!" — Antioch

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 earth! The Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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, and wonders of His love.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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