

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

2:00 PM



*Koyers*

### *About the Prelude*

The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the hearts and minds of the gathering community from the daily struggles of life to the worship of God.

### *On the cover*

*Journey to Bethlehem*  
by Mike Moyers  
fineart.com

In this painting there are two, personally, favorite moments. The first one is Mary's hand on Joseph's shoulder. It's such a sweet moment that brings the both of them together in a very loving way. The other moment is the blowing wind. The wind not only alludes to the harsh adversity of their experience, but it also hints to the presence of the Holy Spirit as they journey together.

## GATHERING

*(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)*

### PRELUDE

Prelude on "Veni, veni Emmanuel"  
Selections from Variations on a Noël  
"Carol" Meditation  
"Cradle Song" Lullaby

Paul Fey  
Marcel Dupré  
Craig Phillips  
Malcolm Archer

Prelude on "Regent Square"  
"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"  
"Joy to the World"

Hal Hopson  
Hal Hopson  
Hal Hopson

The First Nowell  
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

David Willcocks  
David Willcocks

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

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 nature sing!**

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Holy child of Bethlehem,  
you are the hope of the world,  
the song of the angels,  
the treasure of our hearts  
and the glory of God among us.  
Call us to worship you in places  
where your love is born anew.  
On this holy night  
draw us into the mystery of your love.  
Send us out to serve you,  
sharing good news of great joy  
and praising God through you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Today's Musicians:

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!

Alleluia Choir  
Nancy Bieschke & Dave  
Goodridge Directors

Gloria Choir  
Roberta Rodgers &  
John Semingson,  
Directors

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!

Jubilate Choir  
Ally Hard &  
Dale Nickell, Directors

Chiming Children  
Ally Hard, Director

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!

John W. Semingson,  
Director of Music  
Ministries

Dale Nickell, Organist  
and Associate Director  
of Music Ministries

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Loving God, you sent your love to us in the birth of your son.

**Let us show our love by confessing our sins to God  
and one another.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of grace,  
You brought your light into the world through  
Jesus Christ.  
We know that we often forget that light  
in the excitement of this time; forgive us Lord.  
Remind us of your amazing love,  
and help us to share that love  
at home and in the world. Amen.

*Call to and Prayer  
of Confession*

A call to confession  
expresses God's  
initiative in calling  
for repentance  
and promising  
forgiveness in Christ.  
As members of  
Christ's body, we  
confess the reality  
of sin, captivity,  
and brokenness  
in personal and  
common life and  
ask for God's  
saving grace.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*(The liturgist pours water, which reminds us of our baptism.)*

Behold, I bring good news of a great joy;  
for to you is born in the city of David,  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.  
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,  
**in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

# ***THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG***

## **THE PROPHECY**

### **SCRIPTURE**

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

(Old Testament, page 638 in your pew Bible)

## ***THE VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS***

### **THE SETTING**

#### **ANTHEM**

Charlotte Algozin

How Will We Know Him?

How will we know him when he comes?

How will we know Emmanuel?

Will he be a mighty king, a crown upon his head?

Or will he be a tiny child, sleeping beside his mother mild;

Angels and shepherds kneeling at his manger bed?

Will he rule with a mighty hand;

nations and armies at his command?

Or will this Child of humble birth teach us

to live in peace on earth?

What can we give him when he comes?

What can we give Emmanuel?

How can we ever show him that

we want to do our part?

He has no need for earthly things;

Silver and gold and jeweled rings,

All he would have us give him is a loving heart.

The Birth of Jesus

We tell this story from  
Luke and Matthew,  
so we remember that  
Jesus came as a child.

## **THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

**Luke 2:1-7**

(New Testament, page 58 in your pew Bible)

## **THE ANGELS VISIT THE SHEPHERDS**

**Luke 2:8-14**

(New Testament, page 58 in your pew Bible)



**\*HYMN**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**THE SHEPHERDS COME TO THE MANGER**

**Luke 2:15-20**

(New Testament, page 58 in your pew Bible)

**ANTHEM**

Christmas Glory

Joseph Martin

Sing out a song of Christmas glory!  
Sing out a song of Christmas praise!  
Sing out a song and share the story: Jesus is born today!

Sing with the angels, run with the shepherds,  
shine like the stars on high!  
Follow the faithful, reach for the promise, worship the Child of Light!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

**THE KINGS PRESENT THEIR GIFTS TO JESUS**

Matthew 2:1-2, 9b-11

(New Testament, page 2 in your pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## ANTHEM

Lord, Grant Us Peace

Kevin Keil

Lord, grant us peace, peace in our days,  
a peace the world cannot give.  
Lord, daily we long for your comfort and hope.  
Lord, grant us peace, peace in our days.

Da pacem Domine, in diebus nostris!  
(Give peace in our time, O Lord!)

Lord, grant us love, love in our hearts,  
a love the world cannot give.  
Lord, teach us true justice and mercy and faith.  
Lord, grant us love, love in our hearts.

Lord, grant us joy, joy in our souls, a joy the world cannot give.  
Lord, show us the path that will give us new life,  
Lord, grant us joy, joy in our souls.

## \*HYMN

KINGS OF ORIENT

We Three Kings of Orient Are

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 night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!  
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.  
O star of wonder . . .

## THANKSGIVING

## OFFERING

*(The children are invited to come forward as directed by the ushers,  
and put their gifts of food or money with the gifts from the wise men.)*

Offertory Music

Malcolm Archer

“Cradle Song” Lullaby

Offering

This afternoon,  
our offering will  
be cans of food for  
Second Harvest  
Food Bank, which  
we invite children to  
bring to the manger  
during the Offertory.  
Monetary gifts may  
be brought as well,  
and placed in the  
basket by the manger  
or in the offering  
plate. These monies,  
too, will be given to  
Second Harvest.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Praying together*)

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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.

## PROCESSION OF LIGHT

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.

## SENDING

### \*HYMN

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.

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.

### \*BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach

In dulci jubilo (Hymn 132) BWV 608 & BWV 729

The Postlude is  
considered the final  
Alleluia of worship.

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\*(Those who are able may stand.)

#### **Worship Leaders:**

Sophie Maness, Executive Director of Children's Ministry and  
Congregational Life

Rev. Ashley Higgins, Associate Pastor for Young Families

#### **Liturgists:**

Grace Maggart, Davis Childres, Scottie Hollet, Carlisle Smith

Charlotte Munson – Mary

James Warfield – Joseph

#### **Children get to pick angel, shepherd, wise person:**

Sally Berstien, Anne Baker Lee, Bo Chaffin, Amelia Fern Frist  
Caroline Wedemyer, Sloane Fend

#### **Ushers**

Wells Liles, Olivia Hunter, Field Boswell

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