



# Christmas Eve

A Nativity Story

# 4:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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**GATHERING MUSIC**

Michelle Ding, piano

**WELCOME**

Xan Morgan

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Allie Yan

One: On this holy night, come and worship!

**Many: We come with wonder, like the shepherds.**

One: On this night of story and song, come and worship!

**Many: We come with joy, like the angels.**

One: Christ is born among us, come and worship!

**All: We come to worship and adore him. Glory to God!**

**ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY**

Hymn 220

*Please stand as you are able.*

Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:

Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light:

Saints, before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear;  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear:

Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

**INVOCATION**

Piper Morgan

## **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Lindsay, Chris, Benjamin, & Oliver Duke

## **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

Hymn 230, verses 1 & 2

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.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together,  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth!

## **THE NATIVITY STORY**

Come and See: A Christmas Story  
by Monica Mayper and Illustrated by Stacey Schuett  
told by Xan Morgan

## **O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

Hymn 234, verses 1 & 4

*Please stand as you are able. Children are invited to get a walking stick or a sheep and move through the sanctuary as we journey towards Bethlehem.*

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;

See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps;

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

## **THE NATIVITY STORY**

## THE FIRST NOEL

Hymn 245, verses 1 & 2

*Please stand as you are able. Children are invited to get a star and move through the sanctuary as we continue our journey towards Bethlehem.*

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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

## THE NATIVITY STORY

### JESUS! JESUS! LITTLE LORD JESUS

by Angie Killian and Monica Scott  
Children's Choir  
Coley Roberts, director & Heather Reed  
Teresa Suell, soloist

Jesus! Jesus! Little Lord Jesus  
Bright as the star in the sky!  
Jesus! Jesus! Little Lord Jesus  
Glory to God on High!

One simple manger  
Two parents close by  
Three little lambs making soft, searching cries  
Four weary feet on the donkey who brays

As one tiny baby dreams deep in the hay  
Jesus! Jesus! Little Lord Jesus  
Bright as the star in the sky!  
Jesus! Jesus! Little Lord Jesus  
Glory to God on High!

## THE NATIVITY STORY

### LULLABY FOR A KING

Ensemble

Youth

by J. Edmund Hughes & Mary Ellen Loose  
Emmanuel Morgan & Charlie Duke, directors  
Mariah Boucher,  
piano

Lullaby, Lullaby, Sleep my baby.  
Lullaby, Lullaby, Close your eyes.  
Angels are watching, Keep you from harm.  
Sleep my dear one, Rest in my arms.  
Lullaby, Lullaby, Sleep my baby.  
Lullaby, Lullaby, Baby, "Good night."

Lullaby, Lullaby, Infant holy.  
Lullaby, Lullaby, Child divine.  
Christ our Savior, Heavenly King,  
"Alleluias" to Him we sing.  
Lullaby, Lullaby, Christ the Baby,  
Lullaby, Lullaby, Lord of all.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm,  
Silent night, holy night, all is bright.  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, tender and mild.  
Silent night, holy night, sleep in peace.  
Silent night, holy night, heavenly peace.

## THE NATIVITY STORY

## AWAY IN A MANGER

Hymn 217

*Please stand as you are able. Children are invited to come forward to get some bread if they would like.*

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.

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 cradle till morning is nigh.

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.

## THE NATIVITY STORY

### SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Hymn 239

*Please stand as you are able. All are invited to get a candle and make a circle around the sanctuary - together, we dance in Bethlehem.*

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.

Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

*Please extinguish your candle and return to your seat.*

## **CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

Paul Simpson Duke

## **OFFERING OF GIFTS**

*Today's offering will support the FBCA2 youth trip to Nicaragua this summer. Teens and their families will learn about community-based health care from our ministry partners at AMOS Health and Hope. Your generosity will help fund water filters, programming for children, and a dance party!*

## **JOY TO THE WORLD**

Hymn 246, verses 1 & 4

*Please stand as you are able.*

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**

Paul Simpson Duke

## **CLOSING MUSIC**

Michelle Ding

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We're glad you're here!** Please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card in your bulletin. You can place it in the offering plate as it comes by during worship.

**All children are welcome in worship;** Worshipful Play Bags are available as you enter the sanctuary. Optional childcare for children (up to 3 years of age) is available upstairs. If you would like more information about our ministry with kids and youth, please connect with Xan Morgan ([xan@fbca2.org](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)) and Valerie Francia ([valerie@fbca2.org](mailto:valerie@fbca2.org)).

**Our restrooms** are located in the main hallway and downstairs (Huron St. entrance). There is an accessible - all gender, handicap, and family - restroom near the main office (Washington St. entrance).

**AMOS Health and Hope in Nicaragua.** Our offering today supports the work AMOS and the FBCA2 youth trip this summer. AMOS equips local people with the training and resources to treat illnesses, prevent death and disease, and strengthen collaboration to facilitate health care for the community and by the community. To learn more about their work, visit their website, [amoshealth.org](http://amoshealth.org).

### **Special thanks to those who helped lead worship today:**

Michelle Ding, guest pianist

Coley Roberts & Heather Reed, Children's Choir

Mariah Boucher, Charlie Duke & Emmanuel Morgan, Youth Ensemble

Allie Yan & Piper Morgan, readers

Salem McKinley & Liam McKinley, acolytes

Bob Myers, live stream

Kat Becker, sound

Asher Morgan, bread baker

**Adult Formation Class in January.** During the month of January, Pastor Paul will be leading a discussion of *Everything Happens for A Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. We hope you'll join us for this conversation and time of connection each Sunday in January (11:30- 12:30p). Books are available to purchase (\$15/book).



**Poinsettias have been given by:**

Allen & Paula Burton  
Astrid Beck  
David Robbins

**in honor of:**

Our family at Christmas  
Our church family  
Joyce Robbins

**Poinsettias have been given by:**

The Alaniz Family  
Katherine Becker  
Dee & Madeline Drake  
Paul, Rob, & Charlie  
Nancy Fajardo  
Roberta Hause  
Mara Miles  
David Robbins  
Lynn Suits  
Their family  
Jodylynn Wood & Karen Rayner

**in loving memory of:**

Maria Alaniz and Murphy & Carol Stumpf  
Emory & Louise Eley, Carl & Helen Becker  
David Drake  
Stacey Simpson Duke  
Doris George and Leslie Guy George  
Jim Hause  
Graham & Bonnie Miles  
Omer & Elsie Robbins  
Jim, Jerry, and Kathy  
Burne & Phylis White  
Lori Elizabeth Brummett & Kenneth Joe Brummett

*Poinsettias may be taken home after the Festival of Lessons & Carols later this evening.*

We believe that all humanity is created in God's image and is of sacred worth.  
Therefore, compelled by faith in Jesus Christ, the sign of God's inclusive and  
boundless love for the world, we joyfully welcome and affirm individuals of any age,  
race, ethnicity, nationality, physical and mental ability, gender identity, gender  
expression, sexual orientation, marital status, level of education, economic  
circumstance, and religious background to participate fully in all aspects of the life  
and ministry of our church.

Rev. Dr. Paul Simpson Duke, Pastor  
Xan Morgan, Director of Community Life  
Valerie Francia, Associate for Youth Ministry and Communications  
Bonnie Kidd, Sanctuary Choir Director  
Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, Organist  
Coley Roberts, Children's Choir Director  
Kate Gregg, Nursery Caregiver  
Lee Foley, Facilities Manager  
Kat Becker, Administrator  
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