



Worship Service for December 24, 2022 Christmas Eve

Overture Marshall Davies

Prelude Plymouth Chime Choir

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Welcome Pastor Mak

*** Carol** Congregation

TNCH #131 “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” vs. 1-3

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 all,
Great news of joy we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through 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.

And you, 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!

Lighting Of The Advent Candles The Flanner Family

LEADER: It is the season of short days and long nights. We light these candles to remember that even in natural darkness, our lights shine.

ALL: The Christ Child we celebrate this evening reminds us who we are – anointed and sacred children of God.

LEADER: With these flames we signify that Holy Light surrounds and fills us with love. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires; stronger than despair; stronger even than death.

ALL: Together we are walking the path of Christ, choosing to love. Until the captives are free.

LEADER: Until the homeless are sheltered. Until the hungry are fed and the broken are healed, let us choose love.

ALL: Holy Love, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. May the truth of hope, peace, joy, and love transform our hearts into actions of abundant life for all.

1st Biblical Witness

Jan Lundy

The Gospel of Luke 1:26 - 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

The young woman's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over

the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

*** Carol**

Congregation

TNCH #144 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” verses 1 & 3

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the Christ-child bring;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled!”
Joyful, all you saints arise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angel host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the Christ-child bring!”

Hail the Bearer of God’s peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness,
Light and life our Savior brings,
Risen with radiant, healing wings.
Mildly laying glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us all from earth,
Born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the Christ-child bring!”

2nd Biblical Witness

Paula McKnight

The Gospel Of Luke 2:8 - 20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This

will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

“Grant Us Peace”

(Spoken:) The world waited with hope, watching expectantly for the peace promised by God in the scriptures: "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my

unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord. That peace was brought to earth in the form of a Child, born in a stable in Bethlehem. "For unto us a Child is born, a Son is given. And He will be called the Prince of Peace."

Dona nobis,

Dona nobis pacem.

Born a child to grant us peace.

Dona nobis pacem.

(Grant us peace, Lord).

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.

Starlight shines in the evening sky while Mary sings a lullaby. Peace on earth goodwill to all. Hope is born in a manger stall.

Dona nobis,

Dona nobis pacem.

Born a child to grant us peace.

Dona nobis pacem.

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.

(Dona nobis, Dona nobis pacem. Born a child to grant us
peace. Dona nobis pacem.)

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.

Dona nobis pacem. Grant us peace.

Contemporary Witness

Pam Laham

“The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,

Our Father, our Mother, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours. Now and forever.

Invitation to Offering Pam Laham
Plymouth's General Fund &
"UCC Christmas Fund" - Loose Offering

Offertory Music Marshall Davies

Doxology Congregation
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that Love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.

Offertory Prayer Pam Laham
LEADER: We open our hearts and spirits to new birth and transformation.

ALL: We commit what we have gathered to help us sow seeds of love into the world.

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,
Child of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams
From your holy face
Bring the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus Christ at your birth,
Jesus Christ at your birth.

*** Benediction**

Pastor Mak

*** Carol**

Congregation

TNCH #132 "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world!
The Lord is come;
Let earth its praises bring;
Let every heart
Prepare Christ 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.

Christ rules the world
With truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of
God's righteousness
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders, wonders,
Of God's love.

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Paula McKnight
 Pam Laham
 Jan Lundy

Sound: Lynette Lange

Video: Tony Trosclair

Projector: Amie & Shelby-Mak Friday

Poinsettias In Memorial of:

From:

Elwood Hanson

Diane Patch

Edith Hanson

Diane Patch

Bryan Rieken

Diane Patch

Susan Rieken

Diane Patch

Claude and Alice Good

Marcia Good

Peter Shetler

Marcia Good

Gilbert Vines

Mark Vines

Valerie Sanders

Mark Vines

Rev. Beverly Bammel

Mark Vines

Jean Cowart

Mark Vines

Barbara Carol

Mark Vines

Lillian Kim

Mark Vines

Floyd and Susie Mechler

Jeff Mechler

Floyd and Clara Mechler

Jeff Mechler

Robert Mechler

Jeff Mechler

Betty and Hugh Connor

Mary and Jennifer Lowell

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| John and Flossie Lowell | Mary and Jennifer Lowell |
| Norman H. Sachnik | |
| | Terri Sachnik and Marcy Schmich |
| F. Lamar Sachnik | |
| | Terri Sachnik and Marcy Schmich |
| Kirk Elkins | Margaret Stone |
| Carolyn and Jack Dubois | Margaret Stone |
| Mildred and Fred Stone | Margaret Stone |
| Rusty Cunningham, Howard & Jane Schulte | |
| | T.J. Heiser |
| Albert Johnson | Peggy Johnson |
| Ella Mae Borgstedte | Peggy Johnson |
| Poinsettias In Honor of: | From: |
| Ken Groome | Alice Groome |
| Blake Spencer & Jim Wagner | Alice Groome |
| Scarlet and Indigo Gladden | Jeff Mechler |
| Carina, Abby, and Christian Vines-Mechler | |
| | Jeff Mechler |
| Mak Kneebone | Marcia Good |
| The Fab Four | Margaret Stone |
| Detective Angel | Margaret Stone |

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