

Glen Echo Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023
7:30 PM

PRELUDE

Judith Henry

WELCOME

Aaron Brunner

OPENING MUSIC “Angels We Have Heard on High” arr. Bill Wolaver

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Dorothy, Julie & Jeff

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The night was dark.

All: A baby lay in a manger.

One: The night was still.

All: Angels sang to shepherds.

One: The night was expectant.

All: God’s glory shone brightly.

One: On this night,

All: Let us rejoice in the gift of love.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Joy to the World”

**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 world, 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, wonders of his love.**

***INVOCATION**

Aaron Brunner

Reading 1

Luke 2:1-7

Julie

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**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.
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth;**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.**

Reading 2

Luke 2:8-14

Kayla

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

Reading 3

Luke 2:15-19

Pam

“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 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.**

Reading 4

Matthew 2:1-12
“We Three Kings”

Kathleen

**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.**

**Glorious now behold him arise, Christ and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Meditation

Aaron Brunner

Special Music

Vocalist: Lily

Hymn of Preparation “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**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!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: (Refrain)**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)**

Invitation to Commune
Prayer of Consecration

Aaron Brunner

***CANDLE GLOW** Please come down the center aisle to take communion by intinction (individual cups provided as well). As you leave in the outside aisles, take a candle. Silent Night words will be provided there as well. Once the circle has been made, we will begin lighting the candles.

Hymn #145 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

**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.**

**Please stand if you are comfortably able to do so.*

Poinsettias have been donated by the following people:

Julie & Jeff	in memory of Mike & Lowell
Randy	
Kathy	in memory of Jim
Kathy	in honor of Bev
Bev	
Rosemarie	in memory of Anel
Deb	in memory of Mike & Estel & Carol Jean
John	in memory of Harold & Betty, Mike, Charles, Bill
Jackie	in memory of Bobby, Mr. & Mrs. Orie
Dorothy	in memory of Lowell, Harold & Alice, Lloyd & Esther
Paul & Lori	in memory of Martha & Donald
Ron	in memory of Ryan & his parents
Pam	in memory of Elaine & Elsie

If you ordered a poinsettia, please take it home tonight.

Appreciation is extended to all who participated tonight:

Readers

Julie
Kayla
Pam
Kathleen

Holy Family

Baby Jesus: Wyatt
Mary: Lauren
Joseph: Clint

Angels

Abby
Lilly
Everleigh
Charlotte

Shepherds

Justin
Richard
Haven

Lambs

Hudson
Isaiah

Wise Ones

Mary Ann
Brian
Randy

Stage Managers:	Teresa and Don
Costumes:	Teresa
Music Director:	Judith Henry
Minister:	Aaron Brunner
Videographer:	Teresa

(Portions of this worship service were adapted from:

Worship Design Studio: Heaven and Nature Sing! 300 Years of Joy to the World, by The Reverend Dr. Marcia McFee;
and *re: Worship*, by The Reverend Thom Shuman.)

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