



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2020

OPENING HYMN "O come, all ye faithful"

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 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: <i>Refrain</i> | 2. Sing choirs of angels!
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God
In the highest." <i>Refrain</i> |
| 3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n.
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing <i>Refrain</i> | |

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined!

People: For a child has been born for us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

As the story of Christ's birth is read, the Christmas creche is built and hymns are sung.

HYMN "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 the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

HYMN "Once in royal David's city"

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

HYMN "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 bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

HYMN "It came upon the midnight clear"

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 men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

HYMN "We three kings"

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!

HYMN "Silent night"

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | 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. | 2 | Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! |
| 3 | 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. | | |

THE APOSTLES' CREED: *a joyful story* – Victor Hoagland, CP

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Reader: Everything I see – the earth, the sky, the moon – the stars, the sea, the animals – are gifts from God to me.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

And I believe God's greatest gift is Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son, who came to earth to be my friend and my brother.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born of the Virgin Mary.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, long, long ago; he was born of God's Holy Spirit, and Mary was his mother.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried.

Jesus, so holy, so pure, so good, was put to death; hung on a cross by Pontius Pilate, a cruel Roman judge. And all seemed lost when he was buried in a tomb ... but it wasn't.

I believe God raised Jesus from the dead.

On Easter Sunday, Jesus' disciples saw him alive again; and all his friends rejoiced and sang: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

God's Holy Spirit gives life to me, too. And not just to me, but to all the friends of Jesus, who are his Church. The Holy Spirit forgives our sins, and gives us hope of life forever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On this special night, when we remember God's most precious gift to us, the birth of our Lord Jesus, let us pray, saying: Dear God, we thank you.

For all who give you a face, Lord Jesus, by spreading your love in the world:

People: Dear God, we thank you.

For all who give you hands, Lord Jesus, by doing good for their brothers and sisters:

People: Dear God, we thank you.

For all who give you a mouth, Lord Jesus, by defending those who are defenseless and small:

People: Dear God, we thank you.

For all who give you eyes, Lord Jesus, by seeing every bit of love in the hearts of people:

People: Dear God, we thank you.

For all who give you a heart, Lord Jesus, by opening their hearts to others:

People: Dear God, we thank you.

For all who reveal your image into the world simply by who they are, Lord Jesus, because they reflect your beauty and grace in their lives:

People: Dear God, we thank you.

God our Father, we see you in the faces of all who love us, yet nothing reveals you as completely as the face of your Son, Jesus, born to us this night in Bethlehem:

People: Dear God, we thank you.

For all the wonderful gifts you have given us, dear God, we give you thanks.

Hear us, as we join the angels in praying for the fulfillment of your promise:

Glory to God in the highest; and on earth, peace and good will to all the world.

Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ Child be God's gift to you the Christmas season; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you this night and always.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go into this holy night rejoicing
for Jesus is born in Bethlehem
and in our hearts. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

HYMN "Joy to the world"

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.