


O HOLY
night



THE STARS ARE
brightly shining
IT IS THE NIGHT OF OUR
DEAR SAVIOR'S
birth

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Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond United Church of Christ

Our Church at Worship on Christmas Eve 2021, 8pm



Find this service live at
<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityChurchOfRichmond/>

All hymns this evening are from the RED songbooks found at the end of your pews. Please keep your masks on throughout the service, including during singing.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*This, tonight, is the meeting place of heaven and earth.
For this, tonight, is the stable in which God keeps his appointment to
meet his people.*

*Not many high are here, not many holy,
not many innocent children,
not many worldly wise, not all familiar faces,
not all frequent visitors.*

*But, if tonight only strangers met, that would be enough.
For Bethlehem was not the hub of the universe,
nor was the stable a platform for famous people.
In an out-of-the-way place which people never thought to visit –
there God kept and keeps his promise;
there God sends his Son.*

- Christmas Prologue, The Iona Community, in Cloth for the Cradle

GATHERING MUSIC

Penny Kraft

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiky

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

All: to carry Christ into this world.

One: An ordinary carpenter was invited—

All: to be a father to a child unlike any other.

One: The shepherds were invited—

All: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

One: The Magi were invited—

All: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

One: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

All: then we can trust that we too are invited.

One: This story is for us.

All: This love is for us.

One: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

CAROL “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #89 vs. 1 & 2 only (Red Hymnal)

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS

One: In God’s house, there is hope—

All: For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

Light the candle of hope.

One: In God’s house, there is peace—

All: For all that separates us from God falls away.

Light the candle of peace.

One: In God’s house, there is joy—

**All: Because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors,
and laughter that is contagious, and endless rounds
of peek-a-boos with babies;
and if those things have God’s fingerprints, then God’s
house surely exudes joy.**

Light the candle of joy.

One: In God’s house, there is love—

**All: Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love
exists for us all.**

Light the candle of love.

One: And in the center of our hope,

All: In the center of our peace,

One: In the center of our joy,

All: In the center of our love

One: is God—who came to this earth to dwell among us.

So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God’s love just
could not stay away.

Welcome home.

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING PRAYER

One: Holy God,
We've heard this story a million times—
Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds.
We've heard it a million times,
but we want to hear it like it's the first.
So move among us.
Circle back.
Draw close.
Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness.
Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to us
with curiosity, joy, and hope.
This is an invitation.
Come be here with us.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

ANGELS SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT JESUS

The Gospel According to Luke 2:8-18

One: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then the angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

All: “Do not be afraid; look – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

One: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you:

All: You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

One: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

All: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

One: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

All: “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

One: So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw this, they told what had been told to them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

All: But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

One: And the shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#90

MESSAGE

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

CAROL

“Joy to the World”

#313

Verses 1 & 2

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against
us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen.**

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO THE INFANT KING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The Gospel according to John, from chapter 1

Lighting of Candles

The ushers will pass the light to the pews. Please keep your lit
candle upright and tilt only the unlit candle to share the light.

The Choir will sing their anthem, “Peace, Peace.”

When they reach the final verse, the congregation will be invited
to begin singing “Silent 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.**

CLOSING WORDS

One: Let the people who have walked in darkness say,

All: We have seen a great light.

One: Let those who have lived in deep darkness say,

All: We have seen a great light.

One: A child has been born for us, a son given to us,
and so we say,

All: We have seen a great light!

One: For our sakes, God sent the child of Bethlehem.
For our salvation, Jesus came to live among us,
and so we say,

All: We have seen a great light!

One: And the darkness did not,

All: does not,

One: will not overcome it.

All: Glory to God, whose light shines with life for all people.

BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

*Call to Worship, Candle Lighting, and Opening Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art
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Poinsettias Dedicated To:

To the Glory of God

Dick & Louise Strahs
Kelli Brossart

In Memory of

Carol Sligting & Bill Haase, in memory of John Sligting & Peggy Haase
Robert & Carol Richardson, in memory of Margaret & Owen Richardson
Marti Swanson, in memory of Rick, Gary, Ken, & Mark
Yvonne & Charles Kemp, in memory of Lucille Lyght & Jeanette Gardner
Dick & Louise Strahs, in memory of Kenny & Bill

In Thankfulness for

Bob & Judy Jooss, for family
Bob & Judy Jooss, for friends & the Community Church
Kelly Brossart, for family
Jim & Kathy Speaker, for family

If you have sponsored a poinsettia, please take it home with you tonight so it may bring joy to you on Christmas Day.

Reminder: Worship on Dec 26th will be online only, find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityChurchOfRichmond/>

*O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1751
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irregular
John F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with Refrain

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings,

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

*Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA 7.7.7.7. with Refrain
French Carol Melody

Traditional French Carol

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bl - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo -

. ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

*Joy to the World

Ps. 98:5-9
Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.
Attr. to Georg F. Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her king; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 And won - ders of his love, And

sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,