

LUKE 2:1-14
THE BIRTH OF JESUS

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.

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

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!"

JOHN 1:1-5, 9-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



— THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR —
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
OF HOLY COMMUNION

— 9 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING —

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY

Isaiah 9:2-7

Titus 2:11-14

Psalms 96:1-13

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Today's choral music is sung by Chancel Choir members, Tonna Miller-Vallés, Elizabeth van Os, William Ferguson and Edward Hanlon. Our preacher today is the Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Evans.

LIVESTREAM MINISTRY

Services are broadcast, recorded and archived each Sunday via LiveStream and are available on the Brick Church website at <https://www.brickchurch.org/worship/livestream/> For more hymn recording from E. Deane Turner's "A Legacy of Sacred Songs," visit our online audio companion to the book at www.brickchurch.org/a-legacy-of-sacred-songs.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Like us on Facebook (Brick Presbyterian Church), and follow us on Instagram (@brickchurchnyc) and Twitter (@BrickChurchNYC). Please watch for announcements of special events and other programming on our social media platforms and the front page of our website.

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our fathers, Nathaniel O. Abelson and James G. Talcott from their children, Dr. & Mrs. James A. Talcott.

CHRISTMAS DAY PREACHER will be The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Evans.

DECEMBER 24, 2020

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Silent Night” (*Nativity Suite*)
Keith S. Tóth, *organist*

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH & ADVENT PRAYER

Lord, we rejoice that You have come among us. May the flame of the candle remind us that You are the Light of the World. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Matias, Katie, Liesel, Miles and Maggie Stitch

HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Adeste fideles

(See music at the end of this bulletin or page 20 of E. Deane Turner’s “A Legacy of Sacred Songs”)

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

(See scripture text at the end of this bulletin)

Elder Pamela Ferguson

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“God’s Delight”

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Evans

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

John Merbecke (c.1510–c.1585)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

INSTITUTION

HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please take Communion now.)

COMMUNION ANTHEM

“Nativity Carol”

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; Born ‘neath light of star He who loved us so. (*Refrain*)
Far away silent He lay, born today, your homage pay, Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.
Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; Over her Son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. (*Refrain*)
Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills Worship this Babe so rare, hearts with
warmth He fills. (*Refrain*) Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; Innocent dreaming
Babe, make me Thy love to know. (*Refrain*) — *John Rutter*

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

THE SENDING

RECITATION OF JOHN’S GOSPEL AND SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

John 1:1-5, 9-14

(See text at the end of this bulletin)

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Stille Nacht

(See music at the end of this bulletin or page 23 of E. Deane Turner’s “A Legacy of Sacred Songs”)

BENEDICTION

HYMN

“Joy to the World!”

Antioch

(See music at the end of this bulletin or page 19 of E. Deane Turner’s “A Legacy of Sacred Songs”)

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World” (*Nativity Suite*)
Keith S. Tóth, *organist*

Wilbur Held

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

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

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

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

Hear the audio recording at:

<https://www.brickchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/O-Come-All-Ye-Faithful.mp3>

Silent Night, Holy Night

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CHRISTMAS

STILLE NACHT Irregular

Joseph Mohr, 1818
Trans. John Freeman Young, 1863

Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright, Round you
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight, Glo - ries
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; With the

vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
stream from heav - en a - far, Heavenly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia;
beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh',
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh'!
2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Alleluja,
Tönt est laut von fern und nah:
Christ der Retter ist da,
Christ der Retter ist da!
3. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund':
Christ, in deiner Geburt,
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

Hear the audio recording at:

<https://www.brickchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Silent-Night-Holy-Night.mp3>

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
And heaven and na - ture sing,

And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Hear the audio recording at:

<https://www.brickchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Joy-to-the-World-the-Lord-is-Come.mp3>