

WORSHIP NOTES

Contrary to the secular understanding of Christmas being celebrated on a single day, the church recognizes the liturgical season of Christmas as extending from Dec. 25 through Jan 6. Celebrating Christmas as a season helps us to enter more fully into the meaning of the incarnation. Christmas is the first in a series of celebrations (Christmas, Epiphany, the Baptism of our Lord, and the Transfiguration of Jesus) that affirm the identity of Jesus as fully human and fully divine.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing was written by Charles Wesley in 1739, however Wesley's original opening line was: "Hark! how all the welkin rings." That original hymn was shortened and revised to its current form when George Whitefield published it fourteen years later in 1753. "Welkin" (meaning "the visible regions of the air," as Samuel Johnson defined it in his 1755 Dictionary of the English Language) was not a common word, partly because it does not appear in the King James Version or in the Psalter of the Book of Common Prayer. The tune, *Mendelssohn*, is now everywhere wedded to Wesley's text, but it was created for another purpose. Felix Mendelssohn wrote it as part of a longer work for an 1840 festival in Leipzig, celebrating what was then understood to be the 400th anniversary of the invention of printing from movable type by Johannes Gutenberg. Mendelssohn once said the tune might become popular, but insisted it would "never do to sacred words." He did not live to witness how mistaken his assessment was.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain is an African American Spiritual. The importance of refrains in African American spirituals is especially evident here, because this one works like a traditional antiphon coming before, between, and after the stanzas. Its energy and variety stand in remarkable contrast to the repetitive, even notes of the stanzas. It may have originally been in a call-and-response style. This spiritual is especially effective as the final hymn at Christmas services, because it helps to make clear that our response to the good news of Christ's birth should be to tell others about it.

Hugh A. MacKinnon (born 1891; died Dec. 25, 1981), composer of *Sleeps Judea Fair* and also author of its text, was an American organist and church musician. He held positions in Vermont, New Hampshire, the Church of the Transfiguration (Little Church Around the Corner) in New York City, Laramie, (Wyoming) and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Mr. & Mrs. (Corinne Ingraham) James Stanley Glanville Piggot.

THE PLANTS in the Narthex 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. and Mrs. James Talcott.



SUNDAY'S PREACHER will be the Rev. Adam D. Gorman

THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Douglas T. King, *Senior Associate Minister*
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Amanda Page Smith, *Director of Children's Music Ministries*
Meg Cutting, *Wilson Family Yale Sacred Music Intern*

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Officer-in-Charge: Frederick A. Ehlert; *Team Captain:* Robert D. McCrie, Jr., Christopher A. Carroll, Luc M. Dowling, Maxime C. Guignand, Leigh W. Hoagland, Alex G. Li, Paul W. Shaum, Jonathan D. Stone, John D. Tuttle, Christopher R. Wight.

ORDER OF ST. PAUL

Michael J. Appleby, Nathan P. Appleby, Leah C. Lee, Deborah M. Li, Caroline C. Pickering, Alexander N. Rahman, Christopher L. Allen, *Beadle*.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Soprano: Artemisz Polonyi, Melissa Raymond, Elizabeth Van Os. *Alto:* Agueda Fernández-Abad, Erica Koehring. *Tenor:* Sean Clark, Johnny Maldonado. *Bass:* Jeffrey Taveras, Nathaniel Sullivan.

SESSION

Sallie J. Abelow, Raj J. Alva, David M. Blais, Colette O. Bryce, Susan P. Crary, William S. Crutchfield, Paul J. Elmlinger, R. Scott Froehlich, Scripture Z. Gonzalez, Harold P. Hope III, Anne R. Huneke, Stefan Kruger, Michael F. Magsig, Robert D. McCrie, Oliver T. Moses, Helen B. Pennoyer, Clare C. Pickering, Alexander N. Rahman (Youth Elder), Richard H. Stowe, Conor S. Tochilin, Margaret H. Tranbaugh, Katherine G. Vosters, Ryan E. Widener, Suzanne W. Wilson, Victor L. Wu, Mario J. Verdolini Jr., *Clerk of Session*, Debra N. Seraphim, *On-Call Clerk of Session*.

DEACONS

Nathan P. Appleby (Youth Deacon), Beth A. Bell, Arthur W. Bingham, Nancy T. Blair, Stephana Bottom, Paige M. Cali, Christopher A. Carroll, Tenley L. Chepiga, Olivia V. Cranshaw (Youth Deacon), Carl C. Cordova III, E. Graham Clark, David M. Darst, Mark E. Dingle, Helen T. W. Elmiger, William J. Gambrell, Sylvia A. Gower, Kate S. Hrobsky, Amy E. Johnson, Loren E. Kittilsen, Christopher Lanning, Katrina K. Masterson, Amelia McDonald, John P. Muller, Grace Sarno, Andrew R. Skobe, Oscar T. Sloterbeck, Kristin S. Steen John D. Tuttle, Tanya S. Wells.

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— THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR —

Nativity of Jesus Christ Christmas Day

— ELEVEN O'CLOCK —

Schedule of Worship for Christmas 2019

December 29, 11:00 a.m.
Hymn Sing and Reflections

WELCOME The moments before worship are a transition from "getting here" to "being here." Since it usually takes a few minutes to quiet one's mind, and to become open to the Spirit, it is most appropriate to give one's friends a silent wave of the hand, a nod of the head, or a friendly smile in lieu of initiating a conversation.

AFTER THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN, in order not to disrupt the worship service, latecomers will be seated by the ushers only at times when the congregation is standing, either during the Congregational Response following the assurance of forgiveness or during the second hymn.

VISITORS, please know how welcome you are. Please sign the Friendship Book when it passes you during the service of worship and identify yourself with a name tag to be found in the book. You are also cordially invited to attend Coffee Hour following worship.

IN THE ORDER OF WORSHIP that follows, an asterisk (*) invites all to stand; items in bold type face indicate that the congregation participates in word or song.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY

Isaiah 62:6-12

Titus 3:4-7

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)

Psalms 97:1-12

Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

Psalms 98

John 1:1-14

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Weihnachtsstimmung”
Wilhelm Rudnick (1850-1927)
“Notturmo”
Karl Seiffert (1856-1929)
“Es ist ein Ros entsprungen”
Henrich Lang (1858-1919)
Meg Cutting, *organist*

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHORAL INTROIT

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”
John Goss (1800-1880)

See amid the winter’s snow, born for us on earth below, See, the gentle Lamb appears, promised from eternal years. Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption’s happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:
“See, your salvation comes.”

People: They shall be called “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord.”

Leader: Joy to the World!

People: The Lord is come!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 31

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
Mendelssohn

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of Your Son, whom You sent to save us. With singing angels, let us praise Your name, and tell the earth His story. With the saints of all the ages, may we believe, rejoice, and bow down at the wonder of Your love. We pray this happy morning in Your Holy name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(Hymn 22, verse 4)*

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!**
Regent Square

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-18 *(Pew Bible, page 91 N.T.)*
Christopher L. Allen

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

* HYMN 53

“What Child Is This”
Greensleeves

SERMON

“Grace Upon Grace”
Rev. Kimberly L. Clayton

THE RESPONSE

OFFERTORY 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*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

GRADUAL HYMN

“Thee We Adore”
13th c. Benedictine plainsong

Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, Thee, Who at this blessed feast art pleased to be; Both flesh and spirit in Thy presence fail, Yet here Thy presence we devoutly hail.
—Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-1274)

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 580

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory:
Glory be to Thee, O Lord most High. Amen.**
John Merbecke (c. 1510 – c. 1585)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INSTITUTION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle beginning with the front rows, receive bread, dip it in the chalice, partake, and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available at the serving station farthest to the right as you come forward. All who would humbly put their trust in Christ, whatever their church or denominational affiliation, are invited to participate.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Sleeps Judaea Fair”
Hugh A. MacKinnon (1891-1981)

Sleeps Judaea fair, bides the Christ Child there: Shepherds, haste ye! flocks forsaking, swift your way to Him be taking, Babe, of Israel’s prayer. Christ from God is come, choosing earthly home: royal pomp and splendor never, but with love which naught can sever, He will heal the dumb; Christ from God is come. Lowly bend the knee, Thou from sin set free: Let the Christ Child, meekly smiling, infantwise all woe beguiling, grant His grace to thee! —*Hugh A. MacKinnon*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 29

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
Go Tell It

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“Partita on *In dulci jubilo*”
James Vivian (b. 1974)
Meg Cutting, *organist*