



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of AUSTIN

An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Christmas Candlelight Service ~ 12/18/2022
Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Musical Prelude

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Welcome

*Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Red Hymnal 133

Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: Long ago the angel announced to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10) What gifts does Jesus bring to the new world?

People: Jesus brings hope for the future, peace like a river, joy everlasting, and love for all.

Leader: Christmas is the beginning of this new world, a better world, that we are boldly invited to create together as followers of the Christ child.

People: May it be so.

Leader: (Christ candle is lit.) Amen.

Carol

This Little Light

Black Hymnal 524

Reading

"Mary, you have found favor with God"

Luke 1:26-38

Carol

Love Has Come

Red Hymnal 110

*Reading

"My soul magnifies the Lord"

based on Luke 1:46-55

Mary said, my soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my savior, because God has looked with favor upon my lowliness.

I am weak, not powerful. Hungry, not full. Poor, not rich. Simple, not learned. Yet God has looked with favor upon me, God's humble servant.

Forever, generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me. ***Holy is God's name!***

God's mercy extends to those in awe of God, from generation to generation. God has reached out to perform mighty deeds.

God has scattered those who are arrogant and swollen with pride, brought down unjust rulers from their thrones, lifted up the humble, filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

God has helped God's servant, Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as God promised to our fathers.

My soul glorifies the Lord! My spirit rejoices in God, my savior!

***Carol** *Joy to the World* Red Hymnal 134

Reading "Joseph, do not be afraid" Matthew 1:18-25

Carol *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* Red Hymnal 112

Reading "The time came for the baby to be born" Luke 2:1-7

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Red Hymnal 121

***Reading** "An angel appeared to the shepherds" Based on Luke 2:8-20

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying:

Glory! Glory be to God!

Glory be to God in the highest heavens!

May there be peace on earth this night, peace among all whom God loves!

Glory be to God in the highest!

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another: Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up these things and pondered them in her heart.

***Carol** *Angels We Have Heard on High* Red Hymnal 113

Solo *O Holy Night*

Reading "The life was the light of all people" John 1:1-5; 14

Lighting Our Candles and Sharing the Light

***Carol** *Silent Night* Red Hymnal 122
Vs. 1 German, Vs. 1 – 4 English

**We ask that you depart in silence as an expression of awe at the mystery of God incarnate.
All are invited to join us for treats and merriment in Fellowship Hall following the service!**

May you carry the radiance of Christ's love with you into the world this night.

**** Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.***

Leading In Today's Service:

Laura Martin, Director of Music
Jonathan Geer, Piano

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries