

Lessons and Carols of the Birth of Jesus Christ
The Congregational Church of Austin, UCC

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Seven O'clock in the Evening

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

Prelude Improvisation on "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Welcome Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

***Call to Worship** Bill Beardall

O come, o come, Emmanuel, on this holy night, where God invites us to worship and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. O Holy Night!

Emmanuel invites us to hear familiar stories and sing beloved carols as a reminder that God is always with us in our moments of need. O Holy Night!

Emmanuel invites us to receive communion as the blessing that God's love is always nourishing us for the new life born among us. O Holy Night!

Emmanuel invites us to light our candle of God's love in this darkened sanctuary to remember that, like Jesus, each of us carries God's light into the world. O Holy Night! Come, let us worship God, our Creator!

***Advent Carol** O Come, O Come Emanuel Alt. K. Layzer

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with thy captive people dwell;
Who mourn in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.
(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us in peace to dwell.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go. (Refrain)*

*O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)*

Lessons and Carols of the Birth of Jesus Christ

Joseph and His Dream

Reading of the Nativity Story Matthew 1:18-25 Rev. Ginny

Lighting of the Candle of Hope Rev. Ginny

Choral Anthem Sing We Now of Christmas Nouvelet, arr. K. Pederson

Taxes and Family

Reading of the Nativity Story Luke 2:1-7 Bill Beardall

Lighting the Candle of Peace Bill Beardall

Choral Anthem Lost Words Blessing/Adeste Fideles

Advent Carol**O Come All Ye Faithful**

J.F. Wade

*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!*

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

*2 True God from true God,
Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Ver-y God, begotten not created! (Refrain)*

*3 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)*

*4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
(Refrain)*

Mary's Pregnancy**Reading of the Nativity Story**

Luke 2:15-20

Rev. Ginny

Lighting of the Candle of Love

Rev. Ginny

Choral Anthem

Lo, How a Rose/The Rose

Arr. C.H. Johnson

Shepherds and Strangers**Reading of the Nativity Story**

Luke 2:8-14

Bill Beardall

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

Bill Beardall

***Carol**

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Arr. T. Alonso

*1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

*2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, Our Emmanuel. (Refrain)*

*3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth. (Refrain)*

***Carol** Jesus, Jesus, What a Wonderful Child arr. H.C. Boyer
Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild; New life, new hope the Child will bring. Listen to the angels sing, Glory, glory, glory, " let the heavens ring!

The Sacrament of Communion

Choral Anthem Walk in the Light arr. A. Thomas

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

God's Love is Born on This Silent Night

*** Lighting of Our Candles** Rev. Ginny

***Carol** Silent Night J. Mohr, J.F. Young

*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.*

*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!*

*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.*

***Benediction** Rev. Ginny

*** Postlude** Improvisation on Silent Night

Leading In Tonight's Service:

*Bill Beardall, Worship Leader
Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Interim Pastor
Victor Cardenas, Custodian
Jonathan Geer, Piano*

*Amy Harris, Violin
Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon
Liz Lee, Cello
Laura Martin, Director of Music*

The Congregational Church of Austin Choir

*Abi Archey, Soprano
Andres Ojeda, Bass
Nick Bennett, Bass
Jeannie Binder, Alto
Barbara Burnham, Soprano
Lucy Erda, Soprano
Sarah Darter, Alto
Amy Harris, Soprano
Roberto Hernández, Bass*

*Eric Horn, Tenor
Lauren Horn, Alto
Ethel Morris, Alto
Sarah Ross, Tenor
Michael Ross, Tenor
Jeremy Selvidge, Tenor
Kenzie Slottow, Tenor and flautist
AV Villarreal, Alto*