

The First Presbyterian Church

in the City of New York

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18th, 2022 | 4 p.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”
“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Craig Phillips, arr.
Allen Orton Gibbs, arr.

WELCOME

CONGREGATION CAROL

“Once in Royal David's City”

IRBY

Please stand in body or spirit.

arr. David Willcocks



Solo 1. *Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly*
Choir 2. *He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and*
All 3. *Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like*
All 4. *And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -*
All 5. *Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en*



cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
deem - ing— love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our
stand - ing— by, we shall see him; but in hea - ven, set at



man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his child - ren
God's right hand on high; when like stars his child - ren



mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
on to the place where he is gone.
crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

OPENING SENTENCES

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;
tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.
**Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world, and those who live in it.**

Let the whole creation sing for joy
at the presence of God, who is coming.
**God is coming indeed,
to judge the earth with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity and truth.
Praise the Lord!**

O SAPIENTIA: Wisdom

ANTIPHON *sung by the choir*

O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Holy One. Mighty and sweet your ordering of life: teach us prudence.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Gifts of Wisdom

Proverbs 8:1–11

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge. Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her."

CONGREGATION CAROL

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

Please stand in body or spirit.



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan —
2. O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full —
3. O ye heights of heaven, a - dore — him. An - gel hosts, his prais -
4. Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the
of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the
es sing. Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore — him, and ex -
to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un -



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -
 tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have _____ been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 si - lent; ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____ A - men. _____

O ADONAI: Lord

ANTIPHON sung by the choir

O Adonai and Israel's God, your flame brought Moses to his knees. Your mountain brought forth law and life: come and redeem us.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Moses at the Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-6

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

CHOIR CAROL

David Willcocks; after Palestrina

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

-First Responsoy of Advent Sunday in the Office of Matins, early medieval Roman rite

CONGREGATION CAROL 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

GENEVAN 42

Please stand in body or spirit.

O RADIX JESSE: Root of Jesse

ANTIPHON *sung by the choir*

O Root of Jesse, tarry not: o'er all your people your banner waves. All rulers and nations worship you: heal the nations.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Peaceful Kingdom

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

CHOIR CAROL

Otto Goldschmidt

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace, as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race: it blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter, turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring; the Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing; our God of endless might gave her this child to save us, thus turning darkness into light.
-Otto Goldschmidt

O CLAVIS DAVID: Key of David

ANTIPHON *sung by the choir*

O Key of David, sign of might, you tear down bars that hold us fast. Deliver the captives and free us from death: burst our prison.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Righteous Branch of David

Jeremiah 23:5-6

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

CHOIR CAROL

Cristóbal de Morales

Ecce virgo concipiet et pariet filium et vocabitur nomen ejus: Admirabilis, Deus Fortis. Super solium David, et super regnum ejus sedebit in aeternum.

The young woman is with child and shall bear a son: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. For the throne of David and his kingdom, He will establish and uphold it....from this time onward and forevermore.
-Isaiah 8:14; 9:6, 7

CONGREGATION CAROL 144

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

CRANHAM

O ORIENS: Morning Star

ANTIPHON *sung by the choir*

O Morning Star of righteousness, your light shines brightly in the night. Dispel our shadows and bring us light: illumine our darkness.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Testimony of John the Baptist

John 1:19–28

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

CHOIR CAROL

Ralph Vaughan Williams

The blessed son of God only in a crib full poor did lie; with our poor flesh and our poor blood was clothed that everlasting good. *Kyrie eleison.*

The Lord Christ Jesu, God’s son dear, as a guest and a stranger here; us for to bring from misery, that we might live eternally. *Kyrie eleison.*

All this did he for us freely, for to declare his great mercy; all Christendom be merry therefore, and give him thanks for evermore. *Kyrie eleison.*

–Miles Coverdale, after Martin Luther

O REX GENTIUM: Ruler of the Nations

ANTIPHON *sung by the choir*

O Ruler of the nations, desire and longing for wholeness, come. We are your creatures, you formed us of earth: save your people.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

A Vision of the Heavenly Kingdom

Revelation 15:2–4

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

“Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, King of the nations! Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your judgements have been revealed.”

CHOIR CAROL AT THE OFFERTORY

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sin. Who loved us all, and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy to our Lord, the Lord, almighty God. Who was and is to come; sing holy Lord. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein. Rejoice on earth, ye saints below.

For Christ is coming soon. E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come. And night shall be no more. They need no light, no lamp, nor sun. For Christ will be their All!

–Ruth Manz, based on Revelation 22

O EMMANUEL: God with Us

ANTIPHON *sung by the choir*

O God in our midst, Emmanuel, in you our salvation comes to earth. Come, rule our lives and make us whole: come and save us.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

CONGREGATION CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

Please stand in body or spirit.

arr. David Willcocks



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
2. True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,



born the King of an - gels!
got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
glo - ry in the high - est!
now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



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

PRAYERS

SENDING

CONGREGATION CAROL "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

Please stand in body or spirit.

arr. David Willcocks



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3. Hail the heaven - 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 we no more may die,



with the an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christis born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

BENEDICTION

May the Christ, who, by his incarnation,
gathered into one the things of heaven and earth,
fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill,
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Alleluia!

Go forth in peace and joy.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Final, from Symphonie No.1, Op.14"

Louis Vierne

*The congregation is invited to continue worshiping through the postlude,
which is offered as a thanksgiving to God.*

Following the postlude, you are warmly invited to join us for
caroling and fellowship on the North Lawn.

LEADING THIS AFTERNOON

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

Laura Asker, *First Presbyterian Church Nursery School Committee*
Corina McDermott, *Participant – Progressive Student Ministry (PRiSM)*
F. Murray Abraham
Connie Fitzgerald, *Director – St. Joe's Soup Kitchen*
Martha Ball
Ryan Tirre

The First Church Choir
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

Welcome to First Church!

We are so glad you are here.

Scan to make your offering to
First Church



More about Advent and Christmas
at First Church!



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