



First Sunday of Christmas
A Christmas Celebration of Carols, Scripture, Poems & Prayers
December 27, 2020 at 11:00 am

You are invited to sing the carols at home, as led by the quartet.
If harmony is indicated and that is comfortable for you, sing it with us...
Otherwise feel free to sing the melody/tune line throughout.

For those who may wish to have the actual music notes for the Carol singing,
you may print them off using the button link marked *CAROLS*

GATHERING IN FAITH

Prayer in Preparation for Worship
Stars and angels announce the good news, O God, and this
news still startles our imaginations. Thank You! Amen.

Prelude Roberta Erickson, Handbells
Bring a Torch Traditional French Carol/ piano arr. Daniel Kramlich/handbell arr. Christine D. Anderson

Welcome Don Ewing

Call to Worship Don Ewing
*A Hymn for Christmas Day*¹ John Byrom

Christmas Carol *Joy to the World*
words: Isaac Watts, 1719 (alt.)
music: attr. G. F. Handel, 1724/arr. Lowell Mason 1836

Stanza 1 – in harmony
**Joy to the World! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

Carol Background

Stanza 2 – Quartet only arr. John Carter
*Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

Stanza 3 – in unison organ harmonization by Karen Keene
**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

¹ Oxford Book of Christian Verse, p. 154, 1st 12 lines

Stanza 4 – in unison

organ harmonization by Karen Keene

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.**

Reflection

*Our Longing for a Calmer, Purer, More Centered Life*²

Barbara Bolls

Barbara Brown Taylor

Christmas Carol

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Please join in singing

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!**

words: Medieval Latin/trans. Para. John Mason Neale, 1853

music: *IN DULCI JUBILO* / German melody, 14th century

Harm. *Christmas Carols Old and New*, 1871; alt. 1953

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

To Listen, To Look

Don Ewing

Ann Weems

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Ronnie Bailey

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Christmas Carol

Away in a Manger

Hymnal, No.24 and 25

words: Sts. 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885

St. 3, Gabriel's *Vineyard Songs*, 1892

music: *MUELLER*, Attr. James R. Murry, 1887, Harm. John Weaver, 1986

CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895

Stanza 1 – All in Harmony

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

Carol Background

² Excerpted from Barbara Brown Taylor, "Past Perfect", *Home By Another Way*, Crowley Press, Boston, MA, 1999, p. 22, 24

Stanza 2 – solo- Shannon Meyers

*The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

Stanza 3 - All in Harmony

**Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.**

The Birth of Jesus

Matthew 1:18-25

Ronnie Bailey

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Christmas Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem
words: Phillips Brooks, 1868
music: *St. LOUIS*, Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

Hymnal, No. 44

Stanza 1 – All in harmony

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

Stanza 2 – All in harmony

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

Carol Background

Ronnie Bailey

Stanza 3 – Quartet only

arr. Hal H. Hopson

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

Stanza 4 – All in unison

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come, to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

Reflection

Steve Wilson
Ted Loder

Let the Star of Morning Rise

Lord God,
In the deepest night
There rises the star of morning,
Of birth,
The herald of a new day you are making,
A day of great joy dawning
In yet faint shafts of light and love.

I hear whispers of peace in the stillness,
Fresh breezes of promise

Stirring,
Winter sparrows
Chirping of life,

A baby's cry
Of need
And hope – Christmas!

In the darkness I see the light
And find in it comfort,
Confidence,
Cause for celebration

For the darkness cannot overcome it;

And I rejoice to nourish it
In myself,

In other people,
In the world

For the sake of him

In whom it was born
And shines forever, even Jesus the Christ.

Reflection

Don Ewing
Howard Thurman

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers [and sisters]
To make music in the heart.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Christmas Carol of Response

In the Bleak Midwinter
words: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872; alt.
music: CRANHAM, Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906

see page 5

Choral Introduction – Quartet

quotes Holst tune and tune by Ēriks Ešēvalds

Carol Background

Ronnie Bailey

All stanzas sung in harmony

see bulletin page 5

In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,
2. Our God, heaven can - not hold Him, Nor earth sus - tain;
3. An - gels and arch - an - gels May have gath - ered there,
4. What can I give Him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;
Heaven and earth shall flee a - way When He comes to reign:
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Thronged the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble - place suf - ficed
But His moth - er on - ly, In her maid - en bliss,
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.
The Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
Wor - shipped the be - lov - ed With a kiss.
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

words: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.
music: CRANHAM, Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906

The Prayers of the People

Today's Prayer Concerns

Don Ewing

Today's Prayer and 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.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

Benediction

*Joy and Peace in Believing*³

Steve Wilson

William Cowper

Christmas Carol

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Hymnal, No. 29

words: stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925)

music: *GO TELL IT*, African-American spiritual/arr. John W. Work III, 1940

harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Refrain – All in unison

**Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

Carol Background

Barbara Bolls

Stanza 1 – Shane Michael, bass

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold through-out the heavens there shown a holy light.*

Refrain – All in harmony

**Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

Stanza 2 – Shannon Meyers, soprano

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)*

Stanza 3 – Doug Crist, tenor

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain 2 x)*

The Quartet:

Soprano- Shannon Meyers

Alto – Sandy Wahnsiedler

Tenor- Doug Crist

Bass – Shane Michael

³ Oxford Book of Christian Verse, p. 199



Thank you to all in our church family
for your expressions of kindness and love.

Merry Christmas!
The OPC Staff

Bert, Carol, Dale, Don, Marge, Maureen, Michael, Ron, Ronnie, Tracy, & Steve

CHRISTMASTIDE AT OPC



Jan 3 - Epiphany Sunday/Second Sunday of Christmas

11:00 am – Live-streamed Worship Service

Rev. Steve Wilson preaching.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper (prepare your Communion elements to use at home)

Ministry of Music: Michael Frank along with pre-recorded selections from

Bert & Bob Erickson and members of the Chancel Choir

Jan 10 - Baptism of the Lord

11:00 am – Live-streamed Worship Service

Rev. Steve Wilson preaching at both services.

Ordination/Installation of Officers

Ministry of Music: Michael Frank and Quartet

A reminder: All worship services are available for viewing at a later time if you cannot watch at the live-stream hour. Also check out the *Carol Walk* video and Handbell mini concert: *Christmas Bells are Ringing*. All links found at www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org

Christmas Carol Walk 2020 - This year you can attend this beloved community event, while remaining safely at home! Check the OPC website - www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org for the link to our Virtual Christmas Carol Walk. This video features area churches bedecked for the season and sharing The Christmas Story through Scripture and Carols.

Christmas Bells are Ringing - A mini-concert featuring the Handbell artistry of Roberta & Robert Erickson with Michael Frank providing piano accompaniments. Enjoy favorite carols presented in exquisite musical arrangements along with the beauty of our decorated sanctuary, all captured by videographer Ron Burkert. This video is posted on the OPC Website at www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org.

Hope for the Holidays service recording has been posted on the OPC website. This service was led by the Holy Ground Ministry Team members with guest speaker Dr. Lin Ewing. This service is offered for those who have suffered losses and/or need hope during this difficult time.

Year End Contributions - Contributions received in the church office by or postmarked on December 31st will be shown on your 2020 statement. Due to Internal Revenue Service regulations, contributions received after December 31 must be credited to 2021 contributions.

Why not listen to Sunday morning (9:30 am) educational speakers? Send me an email (swilson@oakmontpresby.org) asking to be added to the zoom invitations. *For Sundays in January*, Dr. Roger Owens will speak about “Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality”.

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson	Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Donald R. Ewing	Parish Associate
Michael P. Frank, III	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Ronnie Bailey	Education Director for Children and Youth
Maureen Stecik	Program Staff Assistant
Dale Remai	Custodian
Tracy Messenger	Financial Secretary of Accounting
Marge Kuhn	Financial Secretary of Contributions
Roberta Erickson	Handbell Choir Director
Ron Burkert	AV Team Coordinator
Tracy Messenger and Carol Huber	Nursery Attendants

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