

ARCH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A reconciling congregation

55 North Broad Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Phone: 215/568-6250 Fax: 568-2256

www.archstreetumc.org

Senior Pastor, Robin Hynicka

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24, 2015, 7:00 P.M.



Prelude

Organ and Piano Selections

Adam Haines

Brass Ensemble

Christmas Selections

Arch Street UMC Sanctuary Choir

Masters In this Hall

Carol of the Bells - Leontovich arr. Willhousky

Once in Royal David's City

Order of Service for Christmas Eve

Greeting and Call to Worship

Leader: God gives the gift unique and eternal, the Bethlehem Babe; born, crucified, and risen for us all.

People: O come, O come Emmanuel, all peoples in one heart and mind bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Choir: Rejoice, rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: God gives gifts of the Spirit for growth and life, for teaching and healing, for loving, giving, and caring.

People: Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

Choir: God gives me to you and you to me; we are each other's gift of love for Christ.

Leader: O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Choir: Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

People: O come let us adore him,

Choir: O come let us adore him,

All: O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Christmas Carol # 234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs. 1,2,3,6

Lighting of the Christ Candle and the Church Candles

The McNeill Family

One: Glory to God in the highest!

All: And on earth peace to all!

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Twice in the Advent story, we hear an angel saying "Do not be afraid" - in the Annunciation to Mary and in the announcement to the shepherds on that long ago Christmas night. Who would have thought that God would come among us as a vulnerable baby, born to a poor teenage mother? Who would have expected a king in such surroundings? Yet this is clearly God's message: that Christ was to come in humble form to live among us - not as a warrior messiah, but as one who emptied himself *for us*. And how appropriate that it was to the shepherds that Jesus' birth was announced from the heavens. To the shepherds, who were the outsiders in society. To the shepherds, whose job it was to care for the sheep, just as Jesus would become the Good Shepherd of us all, holding out the loving arms of God to us all.

One: The angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid."

All: The shepherds watched and heard.

One: The angel told them a savior was born.

All: The shepherds believed.

One: The angel told them where the baby was laid.

All: And the shepherds were the first to follow.

LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Come to brighten every corner of the world.

Christmas Carol # 230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Scripture Lessons

Nicola Jefferson

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Choral Anthem

"O Radiant Dawn" MacMillan

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20 (page 889 in pew Bible)

Christmas Eve Meditation Rev. Hynicka

Christmas Carol #238 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Spreading the Light

The Christmas Offering

Offertory "What Child is This" arr. Haines

***Offertory Response 94** "The Doxology"

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Presentation of the Gifts (including the gift of the Icosahedron-a twenty sided polyhedron or snow globe from the Grace Café Community)

Holy Communion - Hymnal pg. 14

***Circle of Candle Light** "Angels" Rutter

At the minister cue please sing the first verse of "Silent Night"

(As the light is passed from one candle to the other, be careful not to tip a lighted candle, lest wax be spilled. Tip only unlit candles to receive the flame.)

Christmas Carol #240 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Benediction

Postlude "Joy to the World" Wilbur Held

***Please stand, if able.**

Full participant with the Christian Copyright License, Inc. #715930



Guest Musicians:

*Nicole Lusskin, Eli Mudrick, Trumpet;
Avalon Nemeç, French Horn; Robert Joffred, Trombone;
Nicholas Lenzi, Tuba*

The Greeters: Nancy Megley, Alice Ming & Raymond Wilson

The Worship Leader: Cathy Simpson

The Altar Flowers (see Christmas Garden insert)

Christmas