



So the stars of the midnight which compass us round
Shall see a strange glory, and hear a sweet sound,
And cry, "Look! the earth is aflame with delight,
O sons of the morning, rejoice at the sight."
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night.

Phillips Brooks



Community Church of Durham
United Church of Christ
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The Festival of the Nativity Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2017 9:00 p.m.

Welcome! *It is a joy to celebrate the gift of God's love in the birth of Jesus the Christ.*

Please silence all electronic devices and refrain from flash photography during the service. Should your little one(s) need a break, the nursery is available, unstaffed, or you may use the Mezzanine, where you can still hear the service. Please ask an usher for directions.

*** You're invited to rise in body or in spirit.**

Prelude *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Silent Night, O Holy Night*

Ailla Crossman and Madeleine Triff, violinists
Catherine York, pianist

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

Melanie and Dennis Drogseth

One: We gather to relight the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. They remind us of God's promises made real through the miracle of life and the blessing of faith.

ALL: We gather to share a sacred story and to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the child of Mary and Joseph, the child of God.

One: We gather to light the Christ candle and we rejoice that the light of the world is kindled in our hearts once again.

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to all people of good will!

Carol (all)

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Jesus came from earth to heaven, who is God and Head of all,
Sheltered in a rustic stable, cradled in a common stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

We at last shall meet our Savior, fount of God's redeeming grace,
For that Child so dear and gentle reigns within a glorious place;
Leading all God's children on, to the heaven where saints have gone.

*Community Church of Durham United Church of Christ
is an Open and Affirming congregation.*

*We embrace, affirm, and celebrate the diversity of the human family.
Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

Please join us for worship at 10 a.m. every Sunday.

*Sunday School and Kinderkirk (nursery care) are offered at the same time.
The worship service lasts about an hour. After the service, we gather
for light refreshments and friendly conversation in Fellowship Hall.*

Many thanks to all of the participants in tonight's service!

The Community Church of Durham Choir

Martha Andersen, Carol Atwood-Lyon, Dwight Baldwin, Nat Balch, Mark Chutter, Gwyneth Crossman, Ti Crossman, John Duffy, Lorna Ellis, Diana Frost, Eliza Gould, Carol Hallett, Kitty Hicks, Ann Hotchkiss, Chuck Hotchkiss, Judith Moyer, Maria Niswonger, Monika Parker, John Puffer, Mary Jane Tyler, Doug Wheeler, Katherine Wells Wheeler, and Vohnny Weyrick

David Ervin, Director of Music Catherine York, Organist
Ailla Crossman and Madeleine Triff, violinists

Advent and Christ Candle Lighters

Melanie and Dennis Drogseth

Readers

Rose Ahrens Mince, Eliza Balch, Gwyneth Crossman, David Ellis,
Bill Gilvary, Judith Moyer, Jane Pollard, and Hugh Tyler

Greeters

Bill Gilvary, Jimmy Hartman, and Hugh Tyler

Commission

One: You are the light of the world.

ALL: May God’s light shine though each of us and bring joy to the world!

*** Carol (all) Joy to the World**

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.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

*Benediction

Choral Response “For Unto Us a Child is Born” from the Messiah by G.F. Handel

Postlude *Ding Dong Merrily On High* (Sixteenth Century French Tune)



Merry Christmas from the CCD Staff

- The Reverend Jill H. Small, Interim Pastor
- David Ervin, Music Director
- Catherine York, Organist
- Kristin Forselius, Education and Faith Formation Director
- Audrey Drogseth, Office Administrator
- Dianne Thompson, Business Administrator
- Clark Williams, Building Manager
- Sarah Garstka and Aaron Wrightsman, Sextons

First lesson Genesis 3:8-15 Gwyneth Crossman

Carol (choir) *Now Bless the God of Israel*

Second lesson Genesis 22:15-18 Bill Gilvary

Carol (all) Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant light;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Third lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Judith Moyer

*** Carol (all) O Come, All Ye Faithful**

***Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes, Venite, venite in Bethlehem:
Natum videte regum angelorum:
Venite, adoremus, venite, adoremus, venite, adoremus Dominum.***

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. O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1-3a; 4a; 6-9 Rose Ahrens-Mince

Carol (all)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender shoot hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
It came a flower bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to man a savior,
When half-spent was the night.

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-35; 38 Jane Pollard

Carol (choir)

*Behold a Virgin Shall Conceive
O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion*

G.F. Handel

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-7 Hugh Tyler

*** Carol (all)**

Away in a Manger

Away in manger, no crib for his bed,
the little lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where he lay,
the little lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-16 Eliza Balch

Carol (choir)

And the Glory

G.F. Handel

Eighth Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 David Ellis

*** Carol (all)**

The First Nowell

The first Nowell, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

Meditation

The Rev. Jill H. Small

Invitation to offering

Offertory

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Awake, the voice is calling us)

by Johann Sebastian Bach

Catherine York, organist

Tonight's offering will be given entirely for the benefit of Heifer Project International.

Ninth Lesson John 1:1-14

***Carol (all)**

Silent Night

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.

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, loves pure light. Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.