



And None  
Shall be  
Afraid

# Our Worship of God

December 24, 2017

11:00 pm

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

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## Christmas Eve Worship

### ∞ From Fear to Life ∞

**Prelude Music**

Christmas Selections

Jordan Kausler and Colleen Ostercamp, piano and organ

Jordan solos on “Little Shepherd”

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the  
weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -  
fraid.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The third staff contains the melody for the third line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

**Invitation to Worship**

Pastor Carol McEntyre

†**Invocation (unison)**

God of glory,  
your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem into the fear  
and darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence  
in the shadows of our world so that we, like him, may become  
beacons of your justice and defenders of all for whom  
there is no room. Amen.

†**Hymn 135**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

†**Lighting the Advent Candles (responsive)**

On this night of nights, may there be hope.  
**Hope for unity where there is disunity;**  
**Hope for civility where there is incivility;**  
**Hope for understanding where there is difference.**  
**Turn our fears, O God, into hope.**

On this night of nights, may there be peace.  
**Peace instead of the destruction of war;**  
**Peace instead of the decay of kindness;**  
**Peace instead of the brokenness of relationships.**  
**Turn our fears, O God, into peace.**

On this night of nights, may there be love.  
**Love when all else is unlovely;**  
**Love when those around us are in need;**  
**Love when it seems impossible to love;**  
**Turn our fears, O God, into love.**

On this night of nights, may there be joy.  
**Joy replacing sadness;**  
**Joy defying despair;**  
**Joy supplanting division.**  
**Turn our fears, O God, into joy.**

**†The Reading of the Christmas Story**

Lillian Hoell

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

**†The Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**The Music of Christmas**

Star Unto Glory

Dicie

*Star unto glory, star unto Mary,  
revealing the wonder she's known all along:  
Christ is our Savior, this tiny baby.  
Mary's heart echoes the angel choir song.*

*Star unto glory, star unto Joseph,  
confirming the message the angel has brought:  
Christ helpless infant, Joseph protect Him,  
father, carpenter, give care and thought.*

*Star unto glory, star unto shepherds,  
cold the wide fields where the message is told:  
be not you frightened, come to the Christ's birth;  
Shepherds bring gifts of the field and the fold.*

*Star unto glory, star unto Wise Men,  
shining to far land the message to give:  
come from a distance, come with your learning,  
worship this Christ child whose wisdom will live.*

*Star unto glory, star unto all men,  
lighting the way to the baby sublime.  
Lead t'ward the manger where we can kneel,  
for this newborn human is Christ the Divine.*

**Message**

Carol McEntyre

**Prayer for Christmas (responsive)**

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

Behind doors closed & locked in fear,

**may hope dwell with you.**

On this path where the footing is tricky,

**may peace walk with you.**

Through the mist with its disorienting shadows,

**may love calmly guide you.**

At the table, whether crowded or quiet,

**may joy sit with you.**

No matter the turbulence or shifting ground,

**God stand with you through the promised coming of Jesus.**

In every breath, in each wound, in every exuberance, in every fear,

**Jesus is alive within you.**

Peace be with you.

**Amen.**

### †Hymn 173

O Come, All Ye Faithful

### Observance of Holy Communion

*(All who wish to follow Christ are welcome to the Lord's table during the observance of communion. Church membership is not the issue; discipleship is. We will partake of the supper in front of the chancel area. Please progress row by row down the center aisle and return to your seats from the side aisles.)*

### †Hymn 150

What Child Is This

### †Sharing the Light of Christmas

*(The congregation will form a circle around the sanctuary and receive light from one another. When lighting your candle, it is best to tip the unlit candle towards the flame of the lighted candle.)*

*Christ, the light of the world, gives each one of us light,  
so that we too may shine with gratitude, hope, and love.*

*Receive the light that comes to you: it comes from the Christ candle,  
but it reaches you only through your neighbors.*

*Receive the light from a brother or sister in Christ.*

*Hold the light, enjoy the light, and be thankful.*

*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, 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**

*O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!  
Blow out your candles now,  
but take the light, hope, peace, love and  
joy of Christ with you out into the world.*

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# Worship Notes

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When God Is a Child WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985. MUSIC: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

The Prayer for Christmas was adapted from a blessing inspired by John 20:21. It was written by Rachel Hackenberg and posted on the RevGalBlogPals website, <http://revgalblogpals.org/author/rachelhackenberg/>.

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## Church Staff

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*Michael McEntyre*, Associate Pastor of Youth, College and young Adults, and Missions  
*Brittany McDonald Null*, Pastoral Resident  
*Yvette Chambers*, Director of Children's Ministry  
*Colleen Ostercamp*, Pianist and Organist  
*Jess Wolfe*, Child Development Center Director  
*Janet Deneke*, Admin. Assistant † *Brenda Rice*, Project Coordinator  
*Bethany James*, Nursery Director † *Jason Bell*, Custodian