



First Baptist Church of Dayton
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 2024

*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.' ~Luke 2:10-12*



The Music Prelude

(The congregation is asked to remain silent during the presentation
as a time of prayer and meditation.)

Gregory Land, Organ

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach



Aurelian Oprea, Violin

Remembrances from "Schindler's List"

John Williams

La Serenta (Angel's Serenade)

G. Braga

Le Cygme from "Carnival of the Animals"

Camille Saint-Saëns

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring from Cantata 147

J. S. Bach

(The appearance of Aurelian Oprea is sponsored by
the Robert & Paige Bartlett Memorial Fund.)



Gregory Land, Organ

Carol of the Bells

Ukrainian Carol – setting by Peter J. Wilhousky



Enter In Praise to the Lord



THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

A three-fold ringing of three signifies the presence of the triune God:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

CHORAL INTROIT

Chancel Choir
Dr. William Henry Caldwell, Music Director

The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed Hal H. Hopson

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all the earth shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Kent Berghuis

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN (See pg. 5)

O Come, All Ye Faithful
ADESTE FIDELES

There is a sense of urgency to this hymn. Imagine a child, tugging at your hand, saying insistently, "Let's go, let's go, let's go!" In the same way, imagine someone pulling at your sleeve or grasping you by the hand, half dragging you as they run through the crowd, saying over and over again, "Come!" We are told that patience is a virtue, but in this case, impatience is a beautiful thing. For who could stand by and wait when all we want to do is worship our Lord and Savior? Albert Bailey writes, "The poet takes us by the hand and leads us with triumphant song to the cave of the Nativity in Bethlehem, shows us the Babe, and bids us adore." This hymn invites us to sing with the angels, sing with our families, sing with our fellow believers, and with every fiber of our being, worship Christ the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Four generations represented:
Harold West, Linda West Thomson, Aidan Owens,
Sydney Owens, Shannon Brown, and Alina Brown

Throughout the Advent season, we have celebrated God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. Jesus coming to us was the Gift that made all those other gifts real in our lives. As we light the Christ Candle, we celebrate the coming of God in human form, bringing light to all the world.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, by the birth of your holy child, Jesus, you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. As we hear your word this evening, grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever brightening hope of everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#125 v.1 Angels We Have Heard On High
GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

OLD TESTAMENT READING~ Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Rev. Mark Craig

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Aurelian Oprea, Violinist

Ave Maria Franz Schubert

*GOSPEL READING ~ Luke 2:4-12

Rev. David Coggins

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord according to Luke.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

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 in the guest room. Now in that same 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."

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*FELLOWSHIP HYMN

#102 (v. 1 & 4) Joy to the World
ANTIOCH

In Genesis 3, one of the great tragedies in all of Scripture occurs. Adam and Eve sin against God, and are banished from the garden as God puts a curse upon the ground. It is a heartbreaking rupture in God's perfect creation, and it is hard not to read this text without feeling a twinge of despair. And yet, before the curse comes a promise. God declares that the woman shall bear offspring that will crush the head of the serpent. Jesus, the Son of Man and Son of God, will come to break the curse, to renew the creation, to make whole what is now broken. In Psalm 98, all of creation is called upon to make a joyful noise before God, for the Lord has come to "judge the earth," and restore His Creation. We should not fail to see our own hand at work in the destruction of creation, in our sins of waste and decadence.

(continued next page)

This "judgment of the earth" is, in some part, a judgment of us as caretakers. But God is merciful and full of grace, and rather than leave everything in our hands, He gives us the Life-giver. In this beautiful hymn, Isaac Watts makes the connection between the coming of Christ into this world and the beginning of that restoration. Christ brings "joy to the world," a light where there is darkness, growth where there is decay. And we, along with all Creation, respond with a song of praise.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

(The children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message during the last verse of the Fellowship Hymn. Following the message, children will rejoin their families in the pews.)

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

Dr. William Henry Caldwell, Director

There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob Felix Mendelssohn

*There shall a Star from Jacob come forth, and a Sceptre from Israel rise up, and dash in pieces princes and nations.
As bright the star of morning gleams, so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation! Thy Word,
O LORD, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation; Thine be praise and adoration!*

THE SERMON

Rev. Dr. Berghuis

"A Sign for You"

The Service of Candlelighting

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*CLOSING HYMN

#134 (v.1 only) *Silent Night, Holy Night*
STILLE NACHT

The song was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas parish church in Oberndorf, a village in the Austrian Empire on the Salzach River in present-day Austria. A young priest, Father Joseph Mohr, had come to Oberndorf the year before. He had written the lyrics of the song "Stille Nacht" in 1816 at Mariapfarr, the hometown of his father, in the Salzburg Lungau region, where Joseph had worked. The melody was composed by Franz Xaver Gruber, schoolmaster and organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf. Before Christmas Eve, Mohr brought the words to Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for the Christmas Eve mass after river flooding had damaged the church organ. The church was eventually destroyed by repeated flooding and replaced with the Silent Night Chapel. It is unknown what inspired Mohr to write the lyrics, or what prompted him to create a new carol.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Berghuis

POSTLUDE

Gregory Land

Ave Maria (Angelus Domini) Franz Biebl

(*) You're invited to rise in body or in spirit!

Please drop off your offering and yellow card in the basket as you leave.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of the church!

(Music and words are used with permission of CCLI License #1826847.)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

41

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

Refrain
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

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

*Alternate harmonization and descant for stanza 3, 42

Poinsettia Dedications

Barbara & Daryl Bogan

*In honor of our daughters,
sons-in-law, and our
grandchildren*

William Henry Caldwell

*In memory of:
Mr. & Mrs. William Caldwell
Robert Caldwell
Susie Caldwell*

Donna & Bob & Curry

*In memory of our parents:
Bob & Norma Curry
Glen & Lois Miles*

*In honor of our sons,
Mike, Rob, & Dave,
and our grandchildren,
Sam, Harper, Louisa, Vivian,
Afton & Molly*

*FBC Staff – Linda, Nancy,
and Edward*

Ted & Gina Greenwood

*In honor of the
Greenwood and Whitson
Families*

Susan & Don Harker

*“Nobody keeps Christmas
like Mothers!”*

William A. Harrell

*In memory of my wife,
Beverly Harrell
and my brother,
Ted E. Harrell*

Tom & Valli Howard

*In memory of
Ivan & Barbara Webster
Charles & Mary Howard
Joyce Gaunt*

Bob & Nancy Kerr

*In memory of our parents:
Ellen & Bob Kerr and
Ruth & Leon Arrasmith*

R. Alan Kimbrough

*In memory of all the
First Baptist chancel choir members
who now sing on another shore.*

Tom & Carole Lasley

*In memory of:
Janet Lasley, Mark Lasley,
and our wonderful
parents*

Mary Malone and

*In memory of
Claude D. Malone, Jr.*

Greg Merkle

*In memory of my parents:
Catherine & Arthur Merkle*

*In honor of:
First Baptist Church of Dayton,
clergy, staff, and congregation*

Barry Schlaile

*In memory of
David Allen Donovan*

Debbie Reichard-Smith

Jackson Smith

*In memory of
Susan Reichard*

Roger & Joanne Stephens

*For the
Stephens and Benedict
Families*

Linda Thomson

*In memory of:
Pete Thomson
Peter & Ethleon Thomson
Janet West*

*In honor of family:
Harold West, Matt, DeAnn, Aidan,
Lucas, Nathan, Kimberly, Sydney,
Abigail, Shannon, Kyle, Colin,
and Alina*

*And our lovely Church Family!
Love & blessings to all!*

Jon & Julie Wolfe

*In memory of:
Grace, Joe, and David Wolfe
Bill & Joan Pearson*



*Thank you to those who
contributed to our beautiful array
of poinsettias this Christmas. You
are invited to take a plant home
after service tonight.*