

Music streamed in today's service:

Gesu Bambino - Pietro A. Yon
Angels from the Realms of Glory - NCH #126*
The First Nowell
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Away in a Manger
In the Bleak Midwinter
Good Christians Friends, Rejoice
Improvisation on Silent Night - John Thompson
Go Tell it on the Mountain - NCH #154*
Impromptu in A flat, Op. 90, No. 4 - Franz Schubert

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**Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Carol Sing
December 26, 2021**

Today's service will be recorded.

Pilgrim Congregational Church
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Prelude

Gesu Bambino

Pietro A. Yon

Greeting and Announcements

Elizabeth Chen and Rich Edmiston

Passing of the Peace

Elizabeth Chen and Rich Edmiston

Call to Worship

Elizabeth Chen and Rich Edmiston

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,
People: God is there.

Leader: This very morning,
People: God is here.

Leader: In the future we cannot see,
People: God is there.

All: Let us worship God!

Unison Prayer

**Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus.
Shine in our lives.
Shine in the Word now read,
Shine in the hymns now sung
and we, children of your light, shining for all people,
will follow. Amen.**

Opening Hymn Angels, from the Realms of Glory - NCH#126

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
As you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, give thanks and sing.*

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light: *[Refrain]*

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of Nations,
guided by Christ's natal star: *[Refrain]*

4 Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly, our prayers attending,
Christ beside you shall appear. *[Refrain]*

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

126

James Montgomery, 1816; alt.

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, watch-ing long in hope and fear,

As you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:
Seek the great De - sire of Na-tions, guid - ed by Christ's na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly, your prayers at - tend-ing, Christ be - side you shall ap - pear.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, give thanks and sing.

One: Let All Above the Earth and On the Earth Praise God!

All: Praise the LORD!

Group 1: Praise the LORD!
Across the heavens,
From the heights,
All you angels, heavenly beings,
sing praise! sing praise!
Sun and moon, glittering stars,
sing praise, sing praise,
Highest heavens, rain clouds,
sing praise, sing praise.
Praise God's name,
whose word called you forth
and fixed you in place for ever
by eternal decree

Group 2: Let there be praise:
From the depths of the earth,
From creatures of the deep.
Fire and hail, snow and mist,
Storms, winds,
mountains, hills,
fruit trees and cedars,
wild beasts and tame,
snakes and birds,
Princes, judges,
rulers, subjects,
men, women,
old and young,
praise, praise the holy name
This name beyond all names.

**All: God's splendor above the earth,
Above the heavens,
Gives strength to the nation,
glory to the faithful,
a people close to God.
Praise the Lord!**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** 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. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** 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.

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** 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: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

15 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.’ 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn Sing

Jim and Barbara Munkres

Hymn Sing

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.

*Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell
 born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

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.

Refrain

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
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, and voices ring with peace to all on earth.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.
The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; protect me, I pray,
and stay by my side till morning is nigh.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow asleep within the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now you know of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!

God has opened heaven's door, and you are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Prayers of the People

One: Let us pray.

All: Loving and creating God, let your goodness appear to us, that our hearts would be made to be a dwelling place for your Love made manifest. Come, O Bright Morning Star, show us the way and destiny of your unending love.

Immanuel, our hearts delight, we join the great celestial choir of angels in singing glory in the highest heavens. In our rejoicing, set us on your path of wisdom and knowledge, that we know the wideness of your love.

We pray that you would bless this church, a stable of strangers and angels, shepherds and magi; help us continue to make this place a community that seeks to follow your humility and mercy.

O Light of the World, you came to earth, meek and mild to surround us with your tender presence. Christ, you wait among us in the rough places, the crib and cross. It is from these rough places that you reach out to this suffering world. End our sad divisions. Give us the freedom of your forgiveness.

Prince of Peace, we pray your blessings upon those who, like the holy family, have no place to stay, no security to rely on, and who are left to wander. Soften our hearts, Lord, that we may see you in our neighbors and in ourselves.

We pray all these things in the name of Christ; the one whose law is love and gospel is peace, and who gave us the words to pray together saying,

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.

The Offering

The offering for today's service will benefit the UCC Christmas Fund. The Christmas Fund supports retired ministers in need. You can participate in the offering by sending a check with *Hymn Sing Offering* in the memo to Pilgrim Church, give via our website using a credit card or Paypal, or you can put your donation in one of the offering plates at the rear of the sanctuary.

Call to Offering

God, you call us to give as we have received. On this Sunday following Christmas, when our blessings are great, when you have shared your Child with us, help us to share our blessing with those in need.

Offertory

Improvisation on Silent Night

John Thompson

Offering Prayer (In unison)

**God of Vision,
Take these offerings of money
and turn them into vision;
 vision of all people fed,
 vision of all people safe,
 vision of all people housed,
 vision of all people educated. Amen.**

Closing Hymn - Go Tell it on the Mountain - NCH #154

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain:

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

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

3 Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Go Tell It on the Mountain

154

*African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907*

Luke 2:8-20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hill and ev-ery-where.

Last time, end

Go tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a-bove the earth
3 Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

to Refrain

Be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
And God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Benediction

Elizabeth Chen & Rich Edmiston

You have seen the Savior.

Go now in peace.

Be the light to enlighten everyone you meet,
and let your life reflect the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen

Postlude

Impromptu in A flat, Op. 90, No. 4

Franz Schubert

Source notes: The Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication are by Rev. Dr. Robert George included in UCC Worship Ways. The Unison Prayer and the Benediction are by Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian. The prayers of the people are adapted from Rev. Wes Conn of Memorial Church at Harvard.

Our MANY THANKS to Jim and Barb Munkres for leading our beloved hymn sing this morning! And thank you to Elizabeth Chen and Rich Edmiston for going above and beyond as liturgists and Zoom Hosts.