

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Carol Sing
December 27, 2020

Music streamed in today's service

Fantasia on "Greensleeves" - Ralph Vaughn-Williams

Angels We Have Heard on High - PH116

Carols: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Silent Night

In the Bleak Midwinter

Go Tell it on the Mountain

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Silent Night (Improvisation) - John Thompson

Joy to the World - PH130

Prelude Op. 35, No. 3 (Snowstorm) - Felix Mendelssohn

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Today's service will be recorded.



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Carol Sing
December 27, 2020

Prelude

Fantasia on “Greensleeves”

Ralph Vaughn-Williams

Candlelighting

Greeting and Announcements

Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash

Call to Worship¹

One: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward all.

All: For out of God's own being, Jesus has come to bring love and light to all People.

One: Jesus is our Emmanuel--God With Us--come to gather our tears and laughter, our work and play into God's love.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward all.

Opening Carol Angels We Have Heard on High

- 1 Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

*[Refrain:] Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heavenly song.
[Refrain]

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
[Refrain]

116

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French Carol

*GLORIA 7.7.7.7. with Refrain
French Carol Melody*

1 An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heaven - ly song.
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Prayer of Invocation

We come before you in awe, O God, freshly aware of your glory and your love embodied in the midst of this world.

Here amid dirt and straw, amid noise of cattle and labor of birth, we perceive your work.

We dare to believe that it is you, O God, coming to be among us in Jesus, and so we praise you with songs of joy this Christmas morning.

Glory be to you, O God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

The Birth of Jesus

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

(continued)

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.

Carol Sing

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the evercircling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in your dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you 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.

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.

In the Bleak Midwinter

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.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there.
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air.
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped 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.

Go Tell it on the Mountain

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

While shepherds kept their watching o'er their flocks at night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go tell it...

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it...

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas Day.
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
[Refrain] O tidings of comfort and joy, o tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace. *[Refrain]*

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Reebee Girash

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

Offertory

Silent Night (Improvisation)

John Thompson

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn Joy to the World

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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. Amen.

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Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

ANTIOCH C.M.

Attr. to Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759

Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
3 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, And
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
And won - ders of his love, And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love. A - men.

heaven and na - ture sing.
peat the sound - ing joy,
won - ders of his love,

Benediction

Rev. Reebee Girash

Postlude

Prelude Op. 35, No. 3 (Snowstorm)

Felix Mendelssohn

¹Liturgy adapted from the *United Church of Christ Book of Worship*.

Our sincere thank you to Jim and Barbara Munkres for providing the music for our service this morning!

