

*Sidings of
Comfort and Joy*

*Alexandria Presbyterian Church
Christmas 2020*



PRELUDE

O Come All Ye Faithful

Emily, Elyse, and Ethan Coit, violin; Serenity Novak, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Tom Holliday

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Pastor Tom Holliday

FIRST READING

Drew and Sally Lindsay

Micah 5:2-6

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he shall be their peace.
When the Assyrian comes into our land
and treads in our palaces,
then we will raise against him seven shepherds
and eight princes of men;

⁶they shall shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword,
and the land of Nimrod at its entrances;
and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian
when he comes into our land
and treads within our border.

SONG OF PRAISE

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 shineth
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 wond'ring love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n
No ear may hear his coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still
The dear Christ enters in

O holy child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Recorded by APC Praise Team, 2018. Lewis Henry Redner | Phillips Brooks. Public Domain. CCLI Song # 27879

SECOND READING

Susannah Johnston

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Becky Mason, flute; Serenity Novak, piano

Silent Night

THIRD READING

Lauren, Emma, James, and Sarah Allen

Luke 2:8-21

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

MUSICAL OFFERING
Angels We Have Heard on High

Emily, Elyse, and Ethan Coit, violin

FOURTH READING
Matthew 2:1-12

Pierre and Caitlin Jolly

The Visit of the Wise Men

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

MUSICAL OFFERING
What Child Is This?

Nancy Stanly, flute; Lina Gentry, piano

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Tom Holliday

SONG OF RESPONSE
Joy to the World

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n—and heav'n 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

No more let sins and sorrow grow
No thorns infest the ground
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as—far as the curse is found

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

Words: Isaac Watts. Music: Fionán De Barra, Keith Getty. © Words: Public Domain Music: 2011, 2019 De Barra, Fionan (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Getty Music Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) From Joy! - An Irish Christmas LIVE. All rights reserved. Used with permission. CCLI Song # 6136891

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Nancy Stanly, flute; Lina Gentry, piano