

MADISON AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1848



Christmas Eve Service
of Lessons and Carols

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7

Hanh Nguyen

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.

SONG

Hush, Missus Teenage Mary
Alexandra de Suze

Ken Medema

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jacki Friedmann

Reader: Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love ; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

All: Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth – regardless of circumstances – reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God.

Reader: On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know ...He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

—*The Rev. Amy C. Wake*

CAROL

[“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”](#)
Karen Rich

No. 163

SONG

A Christmas Carol
Brian Long

Norman Dello Joio,
G.K Chesterton

*The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world
and find him lying in a manger*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 8-16

Edd Clark

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.

CAROL

[“Angels We Have Heard on High”](#)
Richard Binder

No. 155

SONG

Die Hirten
Karen Rich, Chris Fecteau

Peter Cornelius

*Scholars, researching stars, follow a star to
find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-11

Ben Bratcher

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born kind of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

["The First Noel"](#)
Alexandra de Suze

No. 151

SONG

Above the Town
Edd Clark

Paul Stephan,
Robert Myers

*The King is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor
and peace for all God's creation.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Toby Solberg

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

SONG

Jesus, the Light of the World
Doug Shapiro

George D. Elderkin,
Tom Fetke, arr.

Carol

["Joy to the World"](#)
Jenny Lindsey

No. 143

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

Rev. Susan Sparks

CAROL

[“Silent Night”](#)

No. 145

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Susan Sparks

POSTLUDE

What Child Is This?
Paul Stephan

Mark Hayes, arr.

✘

Click on the highlighted hymn links to go to the **Chalice Hymnal** page.

MABC CHANCEL CHOIR

Richard Binder, Alexandra de Suze, Jenny Lindsey
Brian Long, Karen Rich, Doug Shapiro

...with guests

Edd Clark, Joan Binder, Chris Fecteau, Eric Lindsey, Stacy Lee Tilton

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