



The
Lord himself will
give you a *sign*

THE CHURCH OF THE MASTER

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor
(646-321-2380) therevlaw@aol.com
WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2025

7:30 PM

Silent Preparation for Worship

*Almighty God, prepare us now to joyfully proclaim
the Lordship of Christ by our words and our lives.*

Welcome

** Hymn of Praise - "O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Call To Worship (The Minister)

O Nata Lux *

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture and Christmas readings the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child. And let us make this church, dedicated to His pure and lowly life, glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us pray to Him for the needs of the whole world, and all His people: for peace upon the earth He came to save; for love and unity within the one Church He did build; for goodwill among all people. And particularly at this time let us remember before Him the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; those suffering from injustice, bigotry, hatred, alienation as outcasts and strangers who are forever kept at arms length; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love. Let us remember that He calls us to a world of peace-making in a world of war. Let us remember those in our human family who have suffered from natural disasters throughout this year or who have suffered harm by the hands of other fellow human beings. Lastly let us remember before Him, those who rejoice with us, but who are with Him in heaven, sharing in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forever more are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words of our faith: Under the feeble stable light come and behold the wondrous sight! Lies here a babe so heavenly sweet, mother and angels the infant keep. Angels on wing, what do they sing? Glory to God, the Savior, King! Brighter the radiant heavens shine, shepherds afield hear voices divine, "For unto you a child is born! Go and behold him this blessed morn."

* "Light born of light, Jesus redeemer of the world, gently consider your suppliants' Praises and prayers which they offer. You who once considered it right to be clothed in flesh for sinners, Grant us to be made limbs of your blessed body."

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O GOD, EVEN AS WE NEAR THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST CHILD, WE WANT, WE WANT, WE WANT. WE ARE DELUGED WITH SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF ENTICEMENTS TO HAVE THIS AND HAVE THAT. WE LOSE OURSELVES IN OUR SELFISH DESIRES AND WE LOSE THE MEANING OF OUR LIVES. IN SELF-CENTEREDNESS, WE SIN. FORGIVE US, O LORD. OPEN OUR HEARTS TO BE CENTERED IN YOU. LET US SEE THE NEEDS OF OTHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE CLOSEST TO US WHOM WE SOMETIMES TAKE FOR GRANTED. LET OUR GREATEST WANT BE FOR OUR HEARTS AND OUR SOULS TO BE FILLED WITH YOUR LOVE. AMEN.

Carol (remain seated)

"Joy to the World!"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry 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.

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.

Advent Theme: "The Blessings Advent! Brings to the Church and the World"

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 6-7

Matthew 1:22-24 (v. 23)

Homily: "The Blessing Advent Brings to the Church And the World is the One Whose Name is Above All Names. Emmanuel, God with us!"

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.
⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
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.

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:²³ **"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."**²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

Carol (remain seated)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild – God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, ail ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th’incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Reading - (Denise Reidy)

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago

Born ‘neath light of star He who loved us so

Far away silent He lay, born today, your homage pay

For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby

Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky.

Wisemen from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills

Worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills.

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;

Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.

Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay

For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Carol (remain seated)

“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 Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
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.

Carol (remain seated)

"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, from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth, it's ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 (Kevin Martz)

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.

Carol (remain seated)

"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,

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.

Scripture: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, ^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ^[b]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, ^[c] and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, ^[d] full of grace and truth.

Carol (remain seated)

“Angels, We Have Heard On High”

**Angels, we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains, in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Glo-----ri-a in excelsis De-o! Glo-----ri-a in excelsis De-o!

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore, on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

Glo-----ri-a in excelsis De-o! Glo-----ri-a in excelsis De-o!

**See Him in a manger laid – Jesus, Lord of heav’n and earth;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing our Savior’s birth.**

Glo-----ri-a in excelsis De-o! Glo-----ri-a in excelsis De-o!

Lighting of the Christmas Candles (Ushers: Denise Reidy & Kevin Martz)
(As the candles are lit, place your unlit wick into the flame of the candle passed to you.)

“Silent Night! Holy 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, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace --
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Benediction

