

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2020

Organ prelude: "Glory be to God on high"

Bruce Nasmith

Words of Welcome & Lighting of The Christ Candle

Carol: "O come, all ye faithful"

No. 159

1. Oh come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
oh come ye, oh come ye
to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels:

(Refrain)

**Oh come, let us adore him;
oh come, let us adore him;
oh come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

2. God of God, Light of light,
born unto Mary, the virgin blest,
very God, begotten, not created:
(Refrain)

3. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks draw nigh
with holy fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
(Refrain)

4. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest!'
(Refrain)

Prayer of Approach & Confession

What shall we offer you, O Christ, on this the eve of your birth? It is for our sakes that you have revealed yourself to us in a human being.
Every creature made through you, offers you thanks.

The angels offer a hymn;
the heavens, a star;

the wise men, gifts;
the shepherds, their wonder;

the earth, its cave;
the wilderness, the manger;

and we, a human mother.

O God, who has given us your beloved Christ child,

have mercy upon us and give us new life this Christmas.

Amen.

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Duet: O holy night

Adolphe Adam, Arr. by Carl Deis

soloists Anna Bateman and Erin Stone with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol: "O little town of Bethlehem"

No. 165

1. 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.

2. 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 to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings born of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

4. 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;
oh come to us, abide with us,
our Lord, Emmanuel.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-19

Special Music: Angel's Carol

John Rutter

soloists Anna Bateman, Erin Stone, Caleb McCarroll-Butler and Christopher Tanaka-Mann with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Sermon:

PEACE ON EARTH

Dr. Harris

Carol: "Away in a manger"

No. 149

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.

Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus!

Bless all the dear children
in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven
to live with you there.

Special Music: Jesu, Lead My Footsteps Ever

J. S. Bach

soloists Anna Bateman, Erin Stone, Caleb McCarroll-Butler and Christopher Tanaka-Mann with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

"Away in a manger..."

We pray for those away from family:

Those not at home due to work commitments; those who must travel this night; those who are in prison... (silence)

"No crib for a bed..."

We pray for those who have no home:

Those who have suffered because of floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and fire; those who must live on the streets and in alleyways without adequate food and clothing, for refugees the world over...(silence)

"The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head..."

We pray for those needing rest:

Those who are struggling to make ends meet; those who labour through the night so that we might rest; those who fear what lies ahead and have no rest; those who cannot sleep because of pain, loneliness or grief...(silence)

"The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay..."

We pray for the illumination of God's revelation upon us all:

Upon those who have lost their faith; upon those who are uncertain about their future; upon those who need their confidence and hope restored; upon those who hold power in corporations, nations and our communities... (silence)

“The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.”

We pray for those whose labours are done:

Those who have departed from our midst, those who find rest in the assurance of God’s presence...(silence)

For all these, O God, we offer our prayers to you. And we rest assured that you hear our prayers, through Christ our Lord who taught us to pray saying,

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Carol: “Silent night”

No. 154

1. 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.

Christ, the Saviour is born!
Christ, the Saviour is born!

2. Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing 'Hallelujah,

3. 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.

Carol: “Hark! the herald angels sing”

No. 139

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,

'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

**Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King.**

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate deity!
Pleased on earth with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

**Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King.**

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Fugue in G major (the Gigue Fugue)

J. S. Bach

3. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise the lost of earth,
born to give us second birth.

**Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King**

Ministers

Ministers-in Association

Minister Emeritus

Clerk of Session

Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement

Music Director

Parish Nurse Assistant

The Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis, hathan1964@hotmail.com

The Rev. Rebecca Jess, rebecca@armourheights.org

The Rev. Dr. Carol Loudon, The Rev. Deb Stanbury

The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll & The Rev. Rodger Talbot

The Rev. William Middleton

Michael Nettleton, clerk@armourheights.org

Erin Stone, estone@armourheights.org

Bruce C. Nasmith, brucenasmith@gmail.com

Barbara Thomas



Armour Heights Presbyterian Church

105 Wilson Avenue, Toronto M5M 2Z9

Church: (416) 485-4000, estone@armourheights.org

Website: www.armourheights.org

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