

Advent 4 / Pageant Sunday

December 22, 2024

Piano Prelude: Christmas Medley

by Bruce Nasmith

***Hymn: Once in Royal David's City**

No. 166

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

3. and our eyes at last shall see
him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above,
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

2. Christ came down
to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
sheltered by a humble stable,
cradled in a cattle stall:
with the poor, oppressed and
lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy,

4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there God's children gather
round,
bright like stars, with glory
crowned.

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Christmas is coming! The Christ child is coming! And we await his birth.

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the Messiah; we listen for the story of his birth: a story that is filled with peace, joy and unexpected twists.

Let's watch for the signs and listen to the messengers.

Let's stand on tiptoe and shout aloud and sing!

Something new is emerging, something new is being birthed.

In this season of anticipation we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the greatest gift who came in the most unexpected way.

ALL: Joy to the world! Let us worship God who wrote the story of the transforming power of love!

Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle – the candle of Love

***Hymn: Hope is a star (vs.4)**

No. 119

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

Jesus has come and will never depart.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,

And none shall be afraid.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & 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 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

 THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Oh come, all ye faithful - ALL

No. 159, v 1&4

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.**

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

(Refrain)

O little town of Bethlehem – Soloist Anna Bateman

No. 165, v 1&2

*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.*

Away in a Manger – Children and Choir

No. 149, v 1&2

*1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

Infant Holy, infant lowly – ALL

No. 143

**1. Infant holy, infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.**

2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new,
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you.

What child is this – ALL

No. 161, v 1&3

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Go tell it on the mountain – ALL

No. 133

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

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth!
3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Special Music: Glory be to God on high

Bruce Nasmith

Glory be to God on high!

Glory! Hear the angels choir in the heavens in the heights! (x2)

Joyfully now your voices raise!

Joining in our Redeemer's praise!

Radiant mother, infant King.

Gladly to you our hearts we bring!

Beautiful tidings now we tell,

Jesus our Emmanuel!

Glory be to God on high!

Glory! Hear the angels choir in the heavens in the heights! (x2)

Glorious light we now behold!

Story of hope so long foretold!

Visions of peace w now can see!

Gratefully gaining liberty!

Sorrow and sadness, flee away!

Jesus Christ is born today!

Praise Him, all His angels!

Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

*Our Lord, Emmanuel,
God made man with man to dwell.
Glory be to God on high!
Glory! Hear the angels choir in the heavens in the heights! (x2)
Glory be to God on high! (x 8)*

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

***Hymn: Joy to the world**

No. 153

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive its 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 Saviour reigns:
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor 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.
4. 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.

Benediction

***Threefold Amen**

Organ Postlude: O love, how deep, how broad, how high
Michael Praetorius

**Remain seated if you are more comfortable*

PAGEANT CHARACTERS

Narrator 1: Julia Collins

Narrator 2: Jessica Collins

Narrator 3: Anahita Bozorgmehri

Angel Gabriel: Hana Pour Abbasi

Little Angels: Catie Ballard, Charlotte Ballard, Rachel Gould

Mary: Rebecca Jess

Joseph: Ryan Matheson

Baby Jesus: Clara Matheson

Donkey: Sadie Matheson

Innkeeper: Celeste Villarosa

Stable Animals: Callum Yeretsian, Wesley Yeretsian,

Shepherds: Steve Gould, Erin Stone

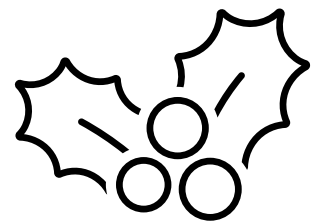
Sheep: Madelyn Gould, Adam MacDonald, Aidan Sisk

Star of Bethlehem: Anne Athanasiadis

Wiseboys: Adam Stafford, Ryan Stafford, Shael Weissman

Wiseman Voiceover: Michael Nettleton

King Herod: Niño Villarosa



***Special thanks to everyone who participated and helped
coordinate today's Christmas Pageant!***

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***We invite you to join us for coffee hour and some light
refreshments in our adjacent hall after the service.***

Ministers

The Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis, hathan1964@hotmail.com
The Rev. Rebecca Jess, rebecca@armourheights.org (On
Maternity Leave)

Ministers-in
Association

The Rev. Dr. Carol Loudon,

Minister Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll & The Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams

Clerk of Session

The Rev. William Middleton

Administrator & Manager of Community

Michael Nettleton, clerk@armourheights.org

Engagement

Erin Stone,

Christian Ed.

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Coordinator

Hannah Athanasiadis, education@armourheights.org

Music Director

Bruce C. Nasmith, brucenasmith@gmail.com

Coming Events

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve All Ages Early Service,
4:30pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,
7:30pm

Sunday, December 29

Special Christmas Service based on
“The 12 Days of Christmas” Carol /
Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday, January 5

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 12

Baptism of Jesus Sunday – Dr. Carol
Loudon

Friday, January 17

PA Day Camp

Sunday, January 19

Epiphany 2 Sunday
Open Mic (more details coming
soon)

Wednesday, January 22

Ancient Prayer practice: *Lectio Divina*,
7:30pm

Friday, January 24

Youth Group, 7-9pm

Sunday, January 26

Epiphany 3 Sunday

Tuesday, January 28

Book Club, “Remarkably Bright
Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt,
7:30pm via zoom

Wednesday, January 29

Winter Study begins: The Gospel of
John, 7:30pm



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“Discover the vitality of faith”