



**Nantucket
United Methodist Church
December 24, 2020
5:00pm
Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Richard Pastor
NantucketUMC.org**



ORDER OF WORSHIP
Christmas Eve
A Service Of Carols & Readings
December 24, 2020

The Prelude

Isaiah Williams

Welcome

***The lighting of the Christ Candle**

***Call to worship**

Leader: Unto us a child is born

Congregation: Alleluia

Leader: Unto us a Son is given

Congregation: And we shall call his name Jesus

Leader: For he shall save the people from their sins

Congregation: And so, we come to adore Him

Opening Hymn

"O Come All Ye Faithful" (verses 1,3) No. 234

Invocation (in unison)

Almighty God, we hear the stories of the prophets and angels, the maiden and the carpenter, the shepherds and the magi, and we too travel to Bethlehem for a blessing. Be with us in these precious moments of worship, in the name of He who is born the savior, Jesus Christ, Amen

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7 Laura Brusca

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

A Carol

"Lo, How A Rose" No.216

The Second Lesson Luke 2:1-14 Elizabeth Eldridge

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the

heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

A Carol

"O Little town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1,2) No. 230

The Third Lesson Luke 2:15-20

Toby Brown

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

A Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 3,4) No. 230

A Christmas Creed (responsively)

Leader: We believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the Gospel begun in the story of Bethlehem.

Congregation: We believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

Leader: We believe in the one for whom the crowded inns and souls of humanity are not barriers but opportunities to invite humans to listen and learn from Christ.

Congregation: We believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons with hungry hearts.

Leader: We believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible, whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose home was love for its only wealth; who looked at persons and helped them see God's love in themselves, who by the sheer strength of love, brought people to goodness and purity, and lifted human weakness up, to meet the strength of God.

Congregation: We confess our need of God, the need of forgiveness for wrongs, and the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

Leader: We believe in a God who still speaks, through the Gospel, through Jesus, through the Spirit, and the always-present neighbor, in a world filled with noisy gongs and clanging cymbals.

Congregation: We believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, who was born for me, and you, and for the world.

A Christmas Prayer

The Light Has Come Into the World Dr. Richard
(during the reading of the candlelight liturgy you will hear "Silent Night" quietly played, then, as you are invited to light your candles, we will sing the carol together) "Silent Night" No. 239

Words of Blessing Dr. Richard

Postlude "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" Isaiah Williams

Cover Photos Courtesy of Toby Brown—Thanks Toby!



December 22, 2020 Christmas Star—Photo taken by Ray Brusca's cousin's husband in Baltimore Maryland—Thanks Theresa & Bob Law!



Directory

Accompanist Mollie Glazer & Isaiah Williams
Lay Leader Sylvester Baptiste
Chair Admin. Board Marianne Stanton
Chair Altar Guild and Emeritus Chair, Trustees, Nelson Eldridge
Chair Trustees Toby Brown
Chair Mission and Outreach Kathryn Batchelder
Chair Staff Parish Relations Marianne Stanton
Chair Stewardship and Finance Zona Tanner-Butler
Technical Coordinator Ray Brusca

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NantucketUMC.org

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