

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving in this worship this evening:

Lector: Gavin Lin
Preacher: Rev. Kate Carlisle
Organist & Choir Director: Dr. JungSun Yoon
Pianist: Doug Robinson
Flutist: Joe LaRocca
Soloists: Noel Edwards
Laura McHugh
Communion Server: Sandra Robinson

Welcome to worship at the Presbyterian Church in Needham!

All of God's people, including and especially children, are welcome here to celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are some activities at the back of the church to keep your little ones occupied in the pews.

We are taking a special collection again this Christmas for a sister congregation in the PC(USA), la Iglesia Presbiteriana en Lares (the Presbyterian Church in Lares), Puerto Rico. Session has designated tonight's loose offering for that purpose. Your gifts will directly benefit this congregation and its community as they continue to rebuild from Hurricane Maria. If you wish to make an offering by check, make it out to PCN but please mark "Puerto Rico" clearly on your envelope or memo line.

When an asterisk(*) appears in the bulletin, you are invited to stand if comfortable.

We worship every Sunday at 10:30 am. All are welcome!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Christmas Medley
Doug Robinson, piano

Sleepers Awake
Joe LaRocca, flute

J.S. Bach

*THREE CHIMES

*(*Please stand as you are comfortable)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Glory to God in the highest!

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest!

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest!

To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest!

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest!

*HYMN #41

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

WELCOME

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way before us, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*HYMN #23

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh, good news of great joy for all, so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN #60

Silent Night, Holy Night
Doug Robinson, Piano

STILLE NACHT

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,
Heavenly 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.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

SENDING

*HYMN #31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

We share the sign of Christ, Light of the World, as we pass the flame from the Christ candle to each one of us. Please light your candle by holding it over your neighbor's candle rather than tilting a lit candle. If you do not have a candle, please indicate to an usher. When our candles are lit, we will join in singing Silent Night (see opposite page).

HYMN #40

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

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.

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Kate Carlisle

SPECIAL MUSIC

A. Adam

O Holy Night
Laura McHugh, Soprano
Noel Edwards, Tenor

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Heaven Sang for Joy

N. Middlemas

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,

O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are indeed holy, O God of Majesty,

and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

... Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts...

... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. We invite you to partake in Communion by intinction, that is, receiving the bread, dipping it in the cup, and eating. Anyone who does not wish to partake is invited to approach the table with hand(s) over their heart for a blessing. Please join the choir in singing Hymn

#44, O Little Town of Bethlehem.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION