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December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.

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Gathering Music

Keith Ciccone, organ  
Justin Oulette, violin

Prelude

Invocation and Welcome

Rev. Karen E. Gale

\*Carol *O Come All Ye Faithful*

O Come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O 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 heaven above.  
Glory to God, 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 you be all glory given.  
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

In the quiet of the night a woman gives birth:

**A personal act of faith. Accepting God's call upon her.**

In the quiet of the night a husband becomes a father:

**A personal act of faith. Accepting God's call upon him.**

In the quiet of the night a baby breathes the night air;

**Shepherds proclaim the news, angels rejoice, kings journey afar:**

**Accepting God's call upon them.**

In the quiet of this night we accept a gift and hear an invitation:

**God's invitation to a life of love and peace, justice making and grace;**

In the quiet of this night, let us receive God's call to us.

**Let us welcome in Christ the Lord!**

Special Music

*O Holy Night*

Breanna Hewson

Lighting the Advent Wreath

We light the Christ candle in celebration of Jesus' birth.

For all who watch and wait...

**...Christ is born this night!**

Musical Response

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7

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.

\*Carol:

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, 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.

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20

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 Christ 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 God 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.

Special Music

*Mary Did You Know*

Maria Opie

Meditation

Rev. Karen E. Gale

\*Carol

*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, 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!"

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 the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with man 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!"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**Our Father (Creator), 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.**

Special Music

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Thomas King IV  
Jessica Mills

Presentation of the Offering

\*Carol

*The First Nowell*

The first Nowell, the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep.  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
No-well, no-well. No-well, no-well. Born is the King of Israel.

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**We bring gifts to the child lying in the manger.**

**We bring our gold and our greatest hopes.**

**We bring our frankincense and our forgiveness.**

**We bring our myrrh and our willingness to participate in the mystery  
of God's love breaking into our world.**

**Accept these Christmas gifts, God,**

**both those visible and those yet unseen,**

**in gratitude and joy for the birth of the Christ child. Amen.**

## Sharing the Light of Christ      *Silent 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. 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

## **\*Benediction**

### Postlude

### *Go Tell It on the Mountain*



*May God be near to you on this holy night. May the light of Christ be  
born in you scattering light on your path and bringing peace to you heart.*

Like the magi, we are called to offer our gifts in  
adoration of Christ. A Christmas offering to support  
the life, ministry, and mission of the church may be  
placed on the offering plate.



**Thank you for joining us** at this Service of Worship at First Church Braintree.  
Of all the things you could have done this evening, we're glad you chose to be with us.



*Thank you to our Director of Music, Keith Ciccone and Guest Musician Justin Ouellet for leading our worship music today.*



Rev. Karen E. Gale, Interim Pastor ❖ revkarengale@gmail.com  
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## THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS WHICH ADORN THE SANCTUARY ARE



given by Susan & Ralph Altmaier

in honor of the wonderful congregation at First Church

in honor of Pastor Karen G.

in honor of Grace Reinelt

in honor of the Book Study Group

in honor of Jean & Bill Opie and family

in honor of Glenn Holton

in honor of Nancy Mills

in memory of Dr. Lewis & Alma Lynch

given by Craig & Marcia Barnes

in honor of United States Military Families

given by Don & Noreen Bisset

in memory of Jennie Bisset

in memory of Dorothy McGrory

given by Keith J. Ciccone & Rick Mirkin

in memory of Grace & Louis Ciccone, parents

in memory of Frances & Arthur Mirkin, Sr., parents

given by Sally Galvin

in memory of James Galvin

in memory of Susan Leonard

given by Martha & Brad Hobbs

in loving memory of our parents, Ruth & William Hobbs

in loving memory of our brother, Walter Hobbs

given by Kris Johnson

in memory of my brother, Harry

given by Thomas, Tom & Mattie

in memory of Bert Gietman

in memory of Ruth, Dick & Shawn Hewson

in memory of Helen & Ed MacDonald



given by Barbara Larsen

in honor of my children & grandchildren

given by Nancy J. Mills

in honor of our beloved grandchildren:

Christian, Shane, Devon, Jessica, & "Little Audrey"

in honor of the parents of our grandchildren:

Keith & Laura, Kristyn & Guahghua, Julie & Scott

given by Grace Reinelt

in memory of Loved Ones



## *Poinsettias*

Those who purchased poinsettias may pick them up at the close of this Christmas Eve service.

The deacons would appreciate the help of anyone who could deliver a poinsettia to our homebound friends in the next few days. If you can do this, please meet us at the front of the church after service.

Thank you and...

*Merry Christmas!*