

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Third Sunday of Advent

The Chiming of the Hour

The Welcome to Worship Morris Driggers

CLOSE TO HOME

* Advent Carol 82 *Light the Light, the Fire of Life* IL EST NÉ

*Light the light, the fire of life, let the candle reveal God's glory.
Jesus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come again.*

**Light the candle of His joy, light the light of shepherds' coming,
Light the candle of His joy, light the light that shows the way.**

The Children's Period Tripp Martin

* The Litany of Joy Laura Edgar

Leader: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

People: It speaks of a home for all!

Leader: It whispers of joy for everyone.

People: Let us listen to it!

Leader: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

People: We hear it in worship, as we draw near to God.

* Carol 89 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* PSALM 42

* The Invocation Laura Edgar

What Shall We Sing for the Child?

AFBC Sanctuary Choir and Youth Choir
with readings from scripture and from John L. Bell

Choral Worship *Every Valley* Beck
Sanctuary Choir

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low
and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Choral Worship *He Shall Feed His Flock* Beck

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd, He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
and carry them in His bosom, and gently shall lead those that are with young.

He shall gather the lambs in His arm, and carry them close to His heart;
and gently, ever so gently shall lead those with young.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

Choral Worship *What Shall We Sing for the Child?* arr. Helvey

What shall we sing for the Child in the stable? What shall we sing for the Infant so fair?
Singing, we offer our humble devotion; Gently a song will make sweeter the air.

We shall sing freely the song of the Virgin; Joining with Mary our voices are one.
All generations will count her as blessed, All generations delight in her Son.

Softly we sing for the Child. Softly we sing for the beautiful Son.

Scripture Readings Laura Edgar, Tripp Martin
Luke 1:26-35; Matthew 1:18-25

Choral Worship *Call the Baby Jesus* Barrett
Youth Choir (solo Elizabeth Wilson)

Mary, you will have a son, ... He will be God's holy One ...
The lame will dance, the blind will see ... He will set His people free ...

God has sent Emmanuel. Love has come with us to dwell.
Let the whole world sing, "Noel." Call the baby Jesus.

He's the One who was foretold ... the perfect Lamb from heaven's fold ...
Soon our eyes will see the sign ... a shining star will light the sky ...

Let us sing forevermore. Peace and love are now restored.
Celebrate the coming Lord. Call the baby Jesus.

Scripture Reading *Luke 2:1-14* Laura Edgar

Choral Worship *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Trad. Polish (arr. Hein)

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

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 child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

* Carol 114 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

* The Offertory Prayer Laura Edgar

The Offertory *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. Lenel
Barbara Acker-Mills, organist

Scripture Reading *Luke 2:15-20* Laura Edgar

Choral Worship *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* arr. Helvey

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella, bring a torch to the cradle, run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village; Christ is born and Mary's calling:
Ah! ah! Beautiful is the mother; Ah! ah! Beautiful is her Son.

It is wrong when the Child is sleeping, it is wrong to talk so loud;
Silence, all, as you gather around, lest your noise should waken Jesus.
Hush! Hush! See how fast he sleeps! Hush! Hush! See how fast he sleeps!

Hasten now, good folk of the village; hasten now the Christ Child to see.
You will find him asleep in the manger; quietly come and whisper softly.
Hush! Hush! Peacefully now he sleeps. Hush! Hush! Peacefully now he sleeps.

A Reading *Infant Jesus* Tripp Martin

Choral Worship *One December, Bright and Clear* arr. Wilberg
Sanctuary Choir (treble voices)

One December bright and clear, early in the morning,
Mary pressed her new born near, kissed him so adoring.

Angels sing and shepherds shout! All good creatures turn about!
Ring the bells of joy, every chime employ,

Make them sing til they bring heaven's wondrous glory, Tell the Christmas story!

That December day and noon, from a steaming kettle,
Mary bathed her tiny boy, in the crèche to settle.

Doves that coo and lambs that bleat, come and see the Mercy Seat!
Ring the bells of peace, Let the sounds increase,

Make them soar, 'til they pour heaven's hope and glory, Spread the Christmas Story!

As the Winter's eve drew nigh, in the stable lowly,
Mary laid her head to rest on the Baby holy,

People far and people near, rest your sorrows, take good cheer!
Ring the gladsome bells, blessed tidings tell,

For He brings in His wings heaven's healing glory. Sing the Christmas Story!

A Reading *How Silently?* Laura Edgar

Choral Worship *He Is Born!* arr. Forrest

He is born, the divine Christ Child; play the musette and the bagpipe merrily!
He is born, the divine Christ Child; sing we all of the Savior mild.

Through long ages of the past, prophets long have foretold His coming;
through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last! He is born ...

O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect Child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to humankind! He is born...

Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a Child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us Thy heavenly peace. He is born ...

* The Spoken Benediction Tripp Martin

Choral Benediction *Ding! Dong! Merrily on High* arr. Helvey

Ding! Dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing;
Ding! Dong! verily the sky is riven with angels singing.
Gloria—hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, Let steeple bells be swungen
And "Io, io, io!" by priest and people sungen. Gloria—hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers!
May you beautifully rime your eve-time song, ye singers! Gloria ...

* standing as able # ushers will seat worshippers

In order to preserve an atmosphere of worship, we
respectfully ask that all electronic devices be silenced.

Acknowledgments: *Light the Light, the Fire of Life*, text by David Montoya, © 1999 Broadman Press • *What Shall We Sing for the Child?* - text & arr. by Howard Helvey, © 2004 Beckenhorst Press • *Call the Baby Jesus* - Michael Barrett, © 1995 Malcom Music • *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* - setting by David Hein, © 2008 Choristers Guild • *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* - arr. Helvey, © 2005 Beckenhorst Press • *One December Bright and Clear*, English text by David Warner, © 2001 Oxford University Press • *He Is Born!* - arr. Dan Forrest, © 2011 Beckenhorst Press • *Ding! Dong! Merrily on High* - arr. Helvey, © 2003 Beckenhorst Press • All texts used by permission. CCLI No. 11445330.