

**Fireside Lessons & Carols  
CHRISTMAS EVE 2021**

***A Weary World Rejoices!***

**Welcome to Christmas Eve!  
Please feel free to move about and  
greet your fellow worshipers.**

**This Bulletin has been created using a  
very large font, so that you can read it  
on your phones or tablets.**

**Landscape mode may allow you to  
pinch up the size.**

**A limited number of paper bulletins  
have produced for those having  
difficulty reading on your device.**

## **Welcome:**

**Tonight, a weary world rejoices! Yes! Tonight, we carefully lay aside our anxieties, by caring for one another's safety. We all know what to do! So, let's take care of one another!**

**Please ensure that you have registered so that we can comply with public health protocols.**

**Welcome to the each and every one of you on this holiest of nights. This is the night that we have all been longed for.**

**Our thanks to:**

**Andrew Slonetsky for leading us in song.**

**Linda Condry for her solo.**

**The members of our Council and Worship Team for pulling this unusual celebration together!**

**Pastor Dawn:            Invocation & Call to Worship**

**Carol:**                    *O Come All Ye Faithful!*

**O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful, and expectant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
Come and behold now!  
Let us sing with angels!**

*Refrain:*

**O come, let us adore CHRIST,  
O come, let us adore CHRIST,  
O come, and greet the h-o-ly,  
CHRIST, our LOVE!**

**Sing, choirs of angels!  
Sing in exultation!  
O sing, all ye citizens  
of heaven and Earth!  
Glory to GOD,  
all glory in the universe!**

*Refrain:*

**O come, let us adore CHRIST,  
O come, let us adore CHRIST,  
O come, and greet the h-o-ly,  
CHRIST, our LOVE!**

## **Lesson:                    Job 38:4-11**

*In the Creation myth found in the Book of Job, we read that GOD said,*

Where were you when I created the Earth?

If you know the answer, tell me!

Who decided its size? Do you know?

Who stretched the measuring line across it?

Into what foundation were its pillars sunk?

Who laid the cornerstone while all the choruses of morning stars sang

And the heavenly court shouted for joy?

And who held back the sea behind partitions when it burst forth from my womb, when I created clouds as the Earth's raiment and thick darkness as its swaddling clothes—when I drew the limits around the waters and locked the partitions in place and said, "This far and no more; this is where the waves stay"?

**Carol:**      **Silent Night for the Cosmically Inclined**

Text: Keith Mesecher

**Silent night, holy night.  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Pla-n-ts Grace-full-y  
Cir-cle the sun  
Star-dust cy-cles through  
Ev-er-y ONE  
Life abounds upon Earth  
Life abounds upon Earth**

**Silent night, holy night.  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Flar-ing forth across  
Hea-vens a-bove  
Su-per No-vas made  
All that we love  
Life abounds upon Earth  
Life abounds upon Earth**

**Lesson:**

**John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the WORD; the WORD was in GOD's presence, and the WORD was GOD. The WORD was present to GOD from the beginning. Through the WORD all things came into being, and apart from the WORD nothing came into being that has come into being. In the WORD was life, and that life was humanity's light—a LIGHT that shines in the darkness, a LIGHT that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from GOD who came as a witness to testify about the LIGHT, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn't the LIGHT; he only came to testify about the LIGHT—the true LIGHT that illumines all humankind. The WORD was coming into the world—was in the world—and though the world was made through the WORD, the world did not recognize it. Though the WORD came to its own realm, the WORD's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the WORD, who believed in that NAME, were empowered to become children of GOD—children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will—but born of GOD.

And the WORD became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the WORD's glory—the favour and position a parent gives an only child—filled with grace, filled with truth.

**Carol:**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ, whose birth the angels sing;  
Come find LOVE that sets you free,  
Let your grateful praises ring.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Lesson:****Galatians 4:4-7**

When the designated time had come, GOD sent forth the CHRIST—born of a woman, born under the Law—to deliver from the Law those who were subjected to it, so that we might receive our status as adopted heirs.

The proof that you are children of GOD is the fact that GOD has sent forth into our hearts the SPIRIT of the CHILD who calls out “ABBA!”

You are no longer slaves, but daughters and sons!

And if you are daughters and sons, you are also heirs, by GOD’s design.

**Carol:**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
hear the heavenly anthems ring:  
“Peace on Earth, and mercy mild;  
all the Earth is reconciled!”**

**Joyful, all Creation rise,  
join the anthems of the skies;  
With th’angelic host proclaim:  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**Hark! The herald angels sing:  
songs of Hope to us they bring!**

**Christ, by Earth and heav’n adored;  
Christ, the healing, Holy WORD;  
Throughout time, behold LOVE come,  
offspring of an Earthly womb.**

**Veiled in flesh, DIVINITY;  
hail incarnate DEITY,  
LOVE is born in us to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel!**

**Hark! The herald angels sing:  
songs of Peace to us they bring!**

**Hail the heav'nly reign of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all now bring,  
ris'n with healing in thy wings!  
Now we find the kin-dom come,  
death and war and hate are done!  
LOVE has come to all the Earth,  
LOVE has brought a second birth!  
Hark! The herald angels sing:  
songs of Joy to us they bring!**

**Lesson:                    Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This the first registration took place 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, a son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

# **Solo:**      **Lindsay Condy: O Holy Night**

## **Lesson:**                      **Luke 2:8-20**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. The angel of God stood before them, and the glory of the God 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 Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Christ. 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 favours!”

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.

**Carol:**

## **Joy to the World**

**Joy to the world!  
For LOVE is come:  
let Earthly praises ring!  
Let every heart prepare ye room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven  
and nature sing!**

**Joy to the Earth!  
For justice reigns!  
Let all our songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy!**

**LOVE fills the world  
with truth and grace!  
And all Creation proves  
The glories of this  
righteousness,  
And wonders of this LOVE,  
and wonders of this LOVE,  
And wonders, wonders  
of this LOVE!**

Prayers:

**Everyone is invited to join in the response to each petition with the words: LOVE be born in us today!**

**Petra:** Wherever we pause to celebrate LOVE's birth, let the story of Jesus' birth inspire us to rejoice and give thanks to the HOLY ONE for the many blessings our lives bring to the world. For life, your life, every life is a gift in which LOVE may be born over and over again.

**Response LOVE be born in us today!**

**Andrew:** The ONE who is the SOURCE of ALL BEING, breaks the yoke of our self-centeredness through the birth of a child, born in poverty. May the knowledge of Jesus' birth bring comfort to the poor and disturb the wealthy so

that all may know the power of LOVE to inspire a hunger for justice, the justice which creates peace among nations.

**Response LOVE be born in us today!**

**Eric:** Mindful that so many are grieving during these days of celebration, let us reach out however we are able to those who have lost loved ones, those who are ill, those who are alone, and to those who are fearful of what may lie ahead in the days and weeks to come. Let LOVE's birth among us inspire in us the kind of compassion which moves us to outrageous acts of kindness.

**Response LOVE be born in us today!**

**Jane:** Let the Good News of Jesus' birth open us to the wonder and the majesty of the MYSTERY which we call "God," so that we can see beyond our hunger for the way things were in the sentimental haze of our rememberings. Let us dream new dreams, dreams worthy of the magnificent Creation in which we thrive.

**Response: LOVE be born in us today!**

**Sharon:** May our celebrations open us to the tender embrace of the MYSTERY which offers us all the opportunity to live lives full of the wonder of the shepherds and the reverence of the angels. Let us see the LOVE which embodies our neighbours in ways we may fail to recognize unless we pause to remember LOVE's unlikely presence in us.

**Response: LOVE be born in us today!**

**Pastor Dawn:** Let us celebrate CHRIST's birth among us in song and celebration for we are richly blessed; blessed by the gift of life so that we might embody the LOVE which is born in us today.

**Response:**

**Alleluia!**  
**LOVE is born in us today!**  
**Alleluia! Amen.**

**Carol:**        **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

**It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the Earth  
to touch their harps of gold,  
“Peace on the Earth, good will to all,”  
from heaven the anthems ring!  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
o’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever over its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.**

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way,  
with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet-bards of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold;  
When peace shall over all the Earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world  
send back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

**Peace:**

**Pastor Dawn:**

The peace of the MYSTERY  
which is LOVE,  
is with you all.

**All: Thanks be to ALL that IS HOLY!**

**Candle lighting:**

**As you light your candles,  
please remember to only tip the unlit candles.**

**Pastor Dawn:**

The light shines in the darkness, and the  
darkness shall not overcome it.

We who have dwelt in the land of deep  
darkness, on us light has shone.

For unto us a child is born,  
CHRIST is born anew!

CHRIST is LOVE born in us! Alleluia! Amen.

**Carol:**

***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, loves pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, LOVE at your birth,  
Jesus, LOVE, at your birth.**

## **Blessing:**

**Pastor Dawn:**

On this Holy Night LOVE is born in you!  
May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the CHRIST child.  
Filled with the LOVE which IS DIVINITY, ✝  
the compassion of CHRIST,  
and the power of the SPIRIT,  
go forth to bring peace on Earth  
and good will to all.  
Go forth to be LOVE in the World!

**All: Merry Christmas!**