



Burlington Baptist Church

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Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Welcome!

We extend a warm welcome to all who have gathered with us in worship this evening. As a church we wish you the joy of this holy season, and the blessings of God throughout the coming year!

Christmas Offering envelopes have been inserted in this bulletin and offering plates have been placed at the door. We invite you to consider making a gift to the *Halton Women's Place* a local organization providing shelter and crisis services for physically, emotionally, financially and sexually abused women and their dependent children, and dedicated to ending violence against women and their children. Thank you in advance, for your generosity, and for your continuing support of the life and ministry of this church throughout the coming year.

We wish to express our thanks to...

- **Dora & Rick Lane** for leading us in the lighting of the Christ candle on our Advent wreath;
- **Kate Elliott, Melanie Brogan, and Christopher Thornton** for leading us in the reading of scripture;
- **Rick Lane, Emily Sweet, Larry Ogden, Allison Thornton, Sharyn Kreuger, and Malcolm Paterson**, for sharing their gifts of music;
- and to **Linda Mourot** for her musical leadership.

We Gather Expectantly

O God:

As Jesus brought hope, make us messengers of hope.

As Jesus brought peace, turn us into peacemakers.

As Jesus brought joy, fill us with the joy of this season.

As Jesus brought love, rekindle love in us,

so that the birth of the baby in Bethlehem

may be a beginning and not an end.

Amen.

Prelude “Toccata on Picardy” (French; arr. Gordon Young) Linda Mourot

“What Child is This?” (“Greensleeves” - arr. John Behnke)

“O Holy Night/Lo, How a Rose” (arr. Jennifer Eklund) Rick Lane

A Word of Welcome Dave Ogilvie

Silent Prayer and Preparation

A Gift of Music “A Different Kind of Christmas” (Mark Schultz)

Emily Sweet

Come and Worship

Call to Worship:

LEADER: In these days, a decree goes out to all the world,
for these are taxing times.
We are called again to go to Bethlehem,
to see what God is doing.

PEOPLE: And so, we come, fearful, hopeful and faithful,
for we have heard the message,
we have dreamed the dream,
that God will come to dwell among us.

LEADER: We come expectantly,
with a sense of joyful anticipation,
for God has done great things for us.
Holy is God’s name.

PEOPLE: We come, searching for a sign,
hoping for a glimpse; bearing our gifts, we come.

LEADER: We come,
called from the silent hillsides of our hearts,
startled and frightened by the magnitude of light,
we huddle together toward Bethlehem.

ALL: We come, one by one, and yet as one,
singing our way into the Promise.

* The Carol “Angels from the Realms of Glory” 143 - GG

*1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

*REFRAIN: Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:*

*3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:*

* Prayer of Approach

A Birth Foretold

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Dora & Rick Lane

ALL: Thank you God for the gift of Jesus, your son.
We thank you too for staying close to us
while we waited for this night.
Help us today, and every day, to worship you,
to hear your word, and to do your will
by sharing your hope, peace, joy and love,
and the good news of Christ, with others.
We ask this in the name of the one
who was born in Bethlehem long ago,
and who is born again tonight
in this Christmas Eve celebration. Amen.

* The Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” 121 - GG

1. *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*
2. *For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.*
3. *How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.*

The Days were Accomplished...

Scripture Reading Luke 2: 1 – 7

Kate Elliott

A Gift of Music “The Search for Lodging” (“Pedida de la Posada” - Mexican)

Bev Wilson, flute

Larry Ogden and Malcolm Paterson

* The Carol “Away in a Manger” 115 – GG

- 1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*
- 2. The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.*

And there were in that Same Country...

Scripture Reading Luke 2: 8 – 14

Melanie Brogan

A Gift of Music “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (J.S. Cook/A. Bevan)

Allison Thornton

* The Carol “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” 117 - GG

- 1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.*

One Silent Night

Meditation “All I Want for Christmas”

A Gift of Music “Wonderful Peace” Sanctuary Choir
 (“Jul, Jul Stralande Jul”) - Norman Luboff/Gustaf Nordquist; arr. Dan Davison)

* **The Carol** “Silent Night, Holy Night” 122 – GG

1. *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.*
2. *Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour is born!
Christ, the Saviour is born!*
3. *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**

Please join us outside if you can.

And join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

