



Sunday, December 14, 2025  
Third Sunday in Advent  
All-Church Christmas Play

## PRELUDE

Little Prelude Nr. 1 in C Major BWV 553  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

## INTRODUCTION OF THE CHRISTMAS PLAY

Rev. Mark van Stee

## PRAYER

Rev. Mark van Stee

## \*SONG "What Child Is This"

Congregation & Band

## LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Hofer Family

**Leader:** On the third Sunday of Advent we light the candle of joy. We read in Luke that Elizabeth's baby leaped with joy at the baby Jesus' presence. Jesus came to bring us all joy. He says we will have joy as we draw near to him and live as he modelled life for us. Happiness goes away, toys break, things in our lives don't always turn out as we had hoped, but God's presence is a constant source of joy.

"At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice, she exclaimed:

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:39-44)

**Leader:** (Prayer): Dear Father of joy, author of every good thing, thank you for being our constant source of joy in life. We pray that your Spirit will prepare our hearts to celebrate the joyous arrival of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ, into the world. May the birth of your Son awaken in us new joy. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## CHRISTMAS PLAY "INTO THE LIGHT"

*ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7*

Narrator

<sup>2</sup> Those who walked in the dark  
have seen a bright light.

And it shines upon everyone  
who lives in the land  
of darkest shadows.

<sup>6</sup> A child has been born for us.

We have been given a son  
who will be our ruler.

His names will be

Wonderful Advisor

and Mighty God,

Eternal Father

and Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His power will never end;  
peace will last forever.

He will rule David's kingdom  
and make it grow strong.

He will always rule  
with honesty and justice.

The Lord All-Powerful

will make certain

that all of this is done.

"Will You Be Ready?"

Words & Music by Mark Patterson

Children's Choir

Katherine Weeks, Solo

*LUKE 1:26-35; 38*

Narrator

<sup>26</sup> One month later God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee

<sup>27</sup> with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. <sup>28</sup> The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed!

The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered

what they meant. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, <sup>31</sup> and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and

will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. <sup>33</sup> He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom

will never end." <sup>34</sup> Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not even

married!" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God.

<sup>38</sup> Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." And the angel left her.

“Mary Did You Know?”  
Words: Buddy Greene; Music: Mark Lowry

Band

*MICAH 5:2-5*

Narrator

<sup>2</sup> Bethlehem Ephrath,  
you are one of the smallest towns  
in the nation of Judah.  
But the LORD will choose  
one of your people  
to rule the nation—  
someone whose family  
goes back to ancient times.  
<sup>3</sup> The LORD will abandon Israel  
only until this ruler is born,  
and the rest of his family  
returns to Israel.  
<sup>4</sup> Like a shepherd  
taking care of his sheep,  
this ruler will lead  
and care for his people  
by the power and glorious name  
of the LORD his God.  
His people will live securely,  
and the whole earth will know  
his true greatness,  
<sup>5</sup> because he will bring peace.

**\*SONG “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

Congregation

*LUKE 2:1; 3-7*

Narrator

<sup>2</sup> About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. <sup>3</sup> Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed.  
<sup>4</sup> So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family. <sup>5</sup> Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, <sup>6</sup> and while they were there, <sup>7</sup> she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

“Silent Night”  
arr. Audrey Snyder

IPC Singers  
Yasmine Urquhart, Clarinet



## LUKE 2:8-14

Narrator

<sup>8</sup> That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. <sup>9</sup> All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. <sup>11</sup> This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay."  
<sup>13</sup> Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said:  
<sup>14</sup> "Praise God in heaven!  
Peace on earth to everyone  
who pleases God."

"Glory to God"

Children's Choir & P.O.S.T.

Words & Music by Michael Bedford

## LUKE 2:15-20

Narrator

<sup>15</sup> After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup> They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying on a bed of hay. <sup>17</sup> When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. <sup>18</sup> Everyone listened and was surprised. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant. <sup>20</sup> As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said.

"Shepherd Boy"

Band

Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham, Steven Furtick

*As Herod appears, **congregation shouts "Boo"!***

## MATTHEW 2:1-8

Narrator

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."  
<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> Herod brought together the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"  
<sup>5</sup> They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote,  
<sup>6</sup> 'Bethlehem in the land  
of Judea,  
you are very important

among the towns of Judea.  
From your town  
will come a leader,  
who will be like a shepherd  
for my people Israel.' ”

<sup>7</sup> Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. <sup>8</sup> He told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I also want to go and worship him.”

*During reading of sentence “When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem”, congregation starts whispering.*

*During sentence of King Herod “I want to go and worship him, too”, congregation shouts “Boo”.*

“Carol of the Kings”  
arr. Page & Shafferman

IPC Singers  
Anoop Abraham, Chandler Cudlipp  
& Randal Turner, The Three Kings

**MATTHEW 2:9-10**

Narrator

<sup>9</sup> The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

**MATTHEW 2:11-12**

Narrator

<sup>11</sup> When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him. <sup>12</sup> Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

“Jesus Light of the World”  
Words & Music by Mark Patterson

Children’s Choir

**JOHN 1:14; 16-18 & JOHN 8:12**

Narrator

<sup>14</sup> The Word became  
a human being  
and lived here with us.  
We saw his true glory,  
the glory of the only Son  
of the Father.  
From him the complete gifts  
of undeserved grace and truth  
have come down to us.

<sup>16</sup> Because of all that the Son is, we have been given one blessing after another.

<sup>17</sup> The Law was given by Moses, but Jesus Christ brought us undeserved kindness and truth. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is truly God and is closest to the Father, has shown us what God is like.

<sup>12</sup> Once again Jesus spoke to the people. This time he said, “I am the light for the world! Follow me, and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives life.”

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## DEVOTIONAL

Nathan Wannemacher

## WELCOMING OF GUESTS

Cheyne Davidson, Morning Worship Elder

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

**\*OFFERTORY SONG** “Joy to the World”

Congregation & Organ

## BENEDICTION

Nathan Wannemacher

## POSTLUDE

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”  
Trad., arr. Jürg Lietha (1952)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

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***\*Please stand if you are able.***

*Worship elements in red indicate the congregation's participation.*

*Today's bulletin cover was drawn by Katherine Weeks.*

*All Scripture readings are CEV (Contemporary English Version).*

*Please join us for a time of cookie fellowship in the Methodist Hall immediately following the service.*

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS & PRODUCTION TEAM**

<b>NARRATOR</b>	Spencer Bliven
<b>CHILD</b>	Adrian Bliven
<b>MARY</b>	Eve Sproats
<b>JOSEPH</b>	Angelo Huang
<b>ANGEL GABRIEL</b>	Katherine Weeks
<b>ANGELS</b>	*Leah & *Asher Abraham
<b>(*CHILDREN'S CHOIR)</b>	*Lillian & *Nora Bliven
	Anna Brem
	Guy & Ivy Breneman
	*Rebecca Cupples
	*Tara Dennison
	*Orlando Flückiger
	Isla Gordon
	*Jan Meades
	*Victoria Meer
	*Samuel & *Andrey Petruk
	*Anna Schnellmann
	Hannah & Helen Weeks
<b>INNKEEPERS 1-3</b>	Audience
<b>HEAD SHEPHERD</b>	Daniel Weeks
<b>SHEPHERDS</b>	Aaron Dennis
	Henry Gordon
	Emory Mütschard
<b>SHEEP</b>	Nora Bliven
	Jon Fisher
	Frederik Hattingh
	Marta Schnellmann
	Sofia Garcia Youakim
<b>TOWNSPEOPLE</b>	Josef, Joscha & Jaime Fisher
<b>BAKERY PERSON</b>	Lily Wullems
<b>CABINET MAKER</b>	Isabel Alario
<b>MIGROS PERSON</b>	Jolene Blesson
<b>COOP PERSON</b>	TBD
<b>HEROD</b>	Moya Meades
<b>WISE MEN</b>	Marcel Blöchlinger
	Askala Meza Gersak
	Pranay Richard
<b>TEACHER OF THE LAW</b>	Valerie Meer
<b>CHIEF PRIEST</b>	Augusto Dennison
<b>DIRECTOR/SCRIPT</b>	Michelle Mütschard
<b>SET MANAGER</b>	Stephan Henne
<b>SET DESIGNER</b>	Ingrid Käser



## **STAGEHANDS**

Joo Hee Lee  
David Newell  
Daria Müller  
Cecelia Blöchlinger  
Joshua Brawand  
Raja Chintapalli  
Christine Weeks  
Janet Deden  
Chandler Cudlipp

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ELDER CHILDREN'S CHOIR LEADERS & PIANO IPC SINGERS (ADULT CHOIR) DIRECTOR EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE BAND**

E-Guitar: Jan Kurmann  
A-Guitar: Joshua Leung  
Bass: Fabián Finkbeiner Rivera  
Piano: Ewa Soluch  
Percussion: Jon Gan  
Vocals: Hanna Pahls

## **ORGAN ASSISTANTS**

Ruth Pfister  
Marlene Fisher  
Roshna Koshy  
Matthias Schnellmann  
Remi Tobler  
Liz Wullems-Griffioen

## **COSTUMES**

Karen Dennis  
Lanette Meister

## **LIGHTING SOUND & STREAM**

Raja Chintapalli  
Stephan Heuberger  
Joel Flückiger  
Joshua Cupples