



Eastminster United Church

December 24, 2015

11pm- Christmas Eve

**Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

"There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the earth." - Rumi

We Gather as God's People

Prelude O Holy Night John S. Dwight; Adolphe Adam

Welcome & Advent Candle Lighting

*Carol VU#45 Joy is Now in Every Place

Opening Prayer

**Mysterious God,
you come to us this season
softly as a mother's sigh,
as startling as the cry of a newborn child.
Come into our hearts, we pray,
that we might be cradled in your love
and stirred by your glory. Amen.**

Introit Wexford Carol English/Irish traditional,
ed. Percy Dearmer and Ralph Vaughan-Williams

We Listen for the Word of Hope

Hebrew Scripture Isaiah 9:2-7 Jane Sanden

Greek Scripture Luke 2: 1-20

One: The Word of Hope.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

*Carol A Weary Couple (see back page)

Sermon Unfolding the Story Rev. Sarah Miller

Duet Joseph's Lullaby Words and Music by Bart Millard and Brown Bannister

We Respond with our Thanks and Prayers

Invitation to the Offering

Carol VU#43 Go Tell it on the Mountain

Please stand in body or in spirit for the presentation of the offering.

Dedication Prayer

We Celebrate a Christmas Communion

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift our hearts in prayer.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Sung Responses

Iona Community

**Holy, Holy,
Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven, earth,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed, blessed,
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Breaking, Pouring, Sharing

Hymn during Communion VU#64 O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Please come forward, take bread and dip it in the cup.
Then, take a candle and form a circle around the Sanctuary.*

We Go Out to Be the People of God

* Carol VU#67 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 Hallelujah,
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

(Hum)

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.

*Blessing

Postlude

Special thanks to Jeff Schissler, Mary Gerritsma, Marie Campbell, Andrew Donaldson, and Wendy Donaldson for sharing their musical gifts tonight!

Merry Christmas & Blessings in the New Year!

Join us in 2016 for Worship, Church School & Nursery on Sundays at 10:30am

Grace for Christmas Dinner

We gather at this table as the shepherds gathered at the manger
Bless the gifts of food and time shared.
As we remember the first Christmas
Sharing the gifts Jesus shared
Bread, stories and love. Amen.

Upcoming Events

*** Thurs. January 7 @ 6pm: Eastminster Refugee Sponsorship Meeting**

Come for a planning meeting to work on a congregational refugee sponsorship application. Members of the congregation and community are invited to attend.

*** Newcomers and Seekers**

Coming in 2016! Join with others to explore life questions. A path to church membership. Starts January 26 at Eastminster. Led by: Rev. Sarah Miller and Rev. Robin Wardlaw.

Our Staff

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Custodians: Alison LeGrow, Jessica Aguiar, Joseph Telford, Joshua Somers, Rodney David

Soloists: Michelle Suzanne - *soprano*, Andrew Hodwitz - *bass*, Jeff Schissler - *tenor*, Joy Klopp - *alto*

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A weary couple

LONDONDERRY AIR 11.10.11.10.11.10.11.12

1. A wea - ry cou - ple lodged with - in a sta - ble,
2. An an - gel came to Jo - seph in his dream - ing
3. Ooo

the on - ly space where they could spend the night.
and warned him so his fam - i - ly could flee.
Ooo

Were oth - er trav - 'lers hap - py to be a - ble
As they es - caped king Her - od's e - vil schem - ing,
Ooo

to keep her la - bor out of mind and sight?
the son of God be - came a ref - u - gee.
Ooo

But choirs of an - gels heard the moth - er's weep - ing,
How man - y chil - dren die with - out such warn - ing?
But still the an - gels sing their hymn of "Glo - ry"

and heav - en rang with songs of peace on earth.
How man - y moth - ers will not be con - soled,
be - yond our fears that nev - er seem to cease.

They went un - heard by those in com - fort sleep - ing,
their voic - es choked with an - ger, tears, and mourn - ing,
For Christ has come, and God's un - fold - ing sto - ry

for Je - sus came a - mong the out - casts at his birth.
for songs un - sung and sto - ries nev - er to be told?
re - deems the world to live in love, good will, and peace.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, ©2015 GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: Irish traditional

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