



UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

DECEMBER 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE

VIRTUAL WORSHIP AT 7:30 P.M.



Testify to the Light

© Jan Richardson

*Words spoken or sung by the congregation are noted in **bold** type.*

PRELUDE FOR ORGAN

Carol-Prelude on *In dulci jubilo*

Richard Coffey, *Organist*
Wilber Held (1914-2015)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,
for a child has been born for us, a son given to us!
Glory to God in the highest heaven!
Let us worship the Prince of Peace.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

Refrain
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness,
the mercy of the Lord shines upon us.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Christ, you were born in a humble stable,
because there was no room for you in the inn.
Forgive us when we foolishly think
that there is no room for you in our lives.
When we close the doors of our hearts to your word,
forgive us, and burst through them with your love.
When we close the doors of our minds to your challenge,
forgive us, and burst through them with your love.
When we close the doors of our homes, our churches, and our cities
to people you would have us welcome,
forgive us, and speak your angel's words to us once more:
"Do not be afraid."**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the promise of the Lord:
See, your salvation has come!
You are a holy people, redeemed by God,
sought out, not forsaken.
I declare to you,
in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

In dulci jublio

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit
show us the Word made flesh—
good news of great joy for all—
so that we may sing with the angels:
glory in the highest and peace on earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Ryan Sweeney, reader

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

ARIA FROM MESSIAH

“The People that Walked in Darkness”

Words from Isaiah 9
George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

Jonathan Mildner, bass

*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light,
and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined.*

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Melissa Share, reader

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah* took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,
which means, ‘God is with us.’ ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;* and he named him Jesus.

SOLO

“I Wonder as I Wander”

Words: Appalachian Folk Carol
Setting: John Jacob Niles

Jonathan Mildner, bass

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Todd Rhoda, reader

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

SOLO

Text: Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)

“As Joseph Was A-Walking”

Setting: Ian Kellam (1933-2014)

Marianne Martin-Pagello, soprano

*As Joseph was a-walking, he heard an angel sing:
“This night shall be the birthtime of Christ, the heav’nly king.
He neither shall be born in housen nor in hall,
Nor in the place of paradise, but in an oxen stall.*

*He neither shall be clothèd in purple nor in pall
But in the fair white linen that usen babies all.
He neither shall be rockèd in silver nor in gold
But in a wooden manger that resteth on the mould.”*

*As Joseph was a-walking, there did an angel sing,
And Mary’s child at midnight was born to be our King.
Then be ye glad, good people, this time of all the year;
And light ye upon your candles, for his star shineth clear.*

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Catherine Pollock, reader

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN

Away in a Manger

MUELLER 11.11.11.11

Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885
 Stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892

Attr. James R. Murray, 1887
 Harm. John Weaver, 1986

1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for His bed, The lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low-ing, the poor Ba - by wakes, But lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me for -

Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. I love Thee; Lord Je - sus, look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, And stay by my side un - til morn-ing is nigh.
 Thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en to live with Thee there.

SERMON

“Worth Pondering”

Dr. DeGarmo

SOLO

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

Ruth Tedder DiLorenzo, soprano

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his Holy name!
Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

FIFTH LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

Byron Weaver, reader

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

SOLO

“Gésu Bambino”

Words: Traditional Italian Carol
Setting: Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)

Adam Goldstein, tenor

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of Love and Light.*

*The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced,
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced:
Venite adoremus Dominum.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its King of Love and Light.*

*Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,
The grateful chorus swell;
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

HYMN

*Those who wish to light candles for the singing of Silent Night
may do so during the organ introduction*

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT Irregular

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Trans. John Freeman Young, 1863

Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight, Glo - ries
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won-drous star, lend thy light; With the

vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav-en-ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia;
beams from Thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Candles may be extinguished at the conclusion of the hymn

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

From the fullness of God
we have all received grace upon grace.
Let us offer our gifts and our lives to the Lord.

SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 And heaven and na - ture sing,

And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE FOR ORGAN

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Fanfare on “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”



NOTES ON THE OFFERING

To give online, you can visit the [giving page on our website](#) to make a one time or recurring gift. If you prefer to give by check, you can send it to 555 Bedford Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591. We thank you for joining us today and offering your voice, prayers and presence to our gathering.

VOCAL LEADERS

Vocal leadership is by Susan Angst, Ruth Tedder DiLorenzo, Adam Goldstein, Marianne Martin-Pagello, Jonathan Mildner and Nancy Schellhas.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 27

9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship – contact [Dr. DeGarmo](#) for the links

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Given by:	Howie Chan Alice Cheung
In Memory of:	Johnny & Mei Chan
Given by:	Richard Coffey
In Honor of:	The Union Church Choir
Given by:	Joan Coffman
In Memory of:	Joan W. Elmes, Mary Lyon & Walker Wiggin
In Honor of:	Beth Coffman
Given by:	Trudy Daly
In Memory of:	Bob & Heddy Collum, Steven Schwartz, Tom Daly
Given by:	Mr. & Mrs. Carter Dorzbacher
In Memory of and in Honor of:	To the Glory of God, our parents, children and grandchildren
Given by:	Sarah Finlayson & Lindley DeGarmo
In Memory of:	Loved ones

Given by: John & Karen Garibaldi
In Honor of: Our daughter Cynthia's engagement
Our newest grandson Joseph

Given by: Pam Geraghty
In Memory of: Richard DeLuca
Shirley Stucklen
Anne Mullin

Given by: Barbara Winter Gommi
In Memory of: Her parents, twin sister and younger sister

Given by: The Lyden's
In Memory of: Those who have gone on ahead

Given by: Victoria & Matt Mattoon
In Memory of: Our choir in heaven who are singing for us from above.

Given by: Susie Michel
In Memory of: My beloved father, Gesualdo Scipioni

Given by: Roland O'Neal
In Memory of: Ruth F. O'Neal
Irene Callas

Given by: Gerard and Marianne Pagello
In Memory of: Elizabeth Pagello
Pauline Martin

Given by: Greg, Kim & Nick Perry
In Honor of: Babbo, Nona, Grandpa, Mimi, Poppa & Oma

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Craig Policastro
In Memory of: Deceased family members

Given by: Nancy, Bill & Bobby Schellhas
In Memory of: Charlie & Georgiana Carlson
Herb & Doris Schellhas
In Honor of: Our wonderful family & friends

Given by: Joyce Skiko
In Memory of: Dorothy Lindner
In Honor of: John Hoffer

Given by: Gary & Linda Sledge
In Memory of: Their parents

Given by: Barbara Smith
In Memory of: Richard A. Lyon, brother of Barbara and Lewis Neiberg, dear family friend

Given by: Elizabeth T. Strasser
In Memory of: Esteban, Ricky & Albertine Silvera
In Honor of: Our children & 6 grandchildren

Given by: Robert & Dianne Sweeney
In Memory of: Those who have passed from covid