



"The Word" by Mike Moyers.

Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pastor, Rev. Dan Stark
Organ and Piano, Matthew Lawrenz
Pam Kothrade, Choir and Vocals
Soloist, Nancy Charles
Vocals, Brad Charles
Soloist, Richard Tremarello
Soloist, Colleen Lentz

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December 24th, 2020

The Christmas story reminds us that we are all dreamers. Like those gathered around the manger, we come to this night each year with awe, wonder, and holy imagination for what is possible. This is a Christmas like none other. Like Mary, we treasure God's dream in our hearts and commit to keeping it alive. Like the holy family, we believe and trust in a God who comes to us in the vulnerability of a child. We light the Christ Candle and dream of a hope, peace, joy, and love-filled tomorrow. Tonight, we are those who dream.

**Before the service begins, you are invited to prepare communion elements in your home – wine or juice, bread or crackers, or whatever the Spirit calls you to share with your family or church family as a sacred meal.*

**You are invited to find a candle or light to shine for Silent Night at the end of the service.*

**Please recite the purple words aloud.*

Prelude

Cradle Song

Archer

Words of Welcome

Mass Choir Piece

Angels We Have Heard on High

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Call to Worship

One: This year, we dreamed of world peace.

All: We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.

One: We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.

All: We dreamed of doors open wide and a cure to disease.

One: We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.

All: For to dream is to hope; to dream is to see.

One: So make room in your being to dream yet again,

All: Of a world without fear, and a God that draws near.

One: For it is almost Christmas.

All: Love is almost here.

One: May we dream to see, and hope to believe. Let us worship Holy God.

Candle Lighting Song

Lead Us To Your Light

Carol Browning

Lead us to your light, lead us out of darkness.

Lead us to your light. Come, Jesus, come.

Lead us to your light, lead us out of darkness.

Lead us to your light. Come, Jesus, come.



"Love Incarnate" by Hannah Garrity.

Candle Lighting Liturgy

One: In the beginning, God dreamed of a beautiful world.

In Egypt, the Israelites dreamed of freedom.

In the wilderness, the people dreamed of safety.

In Jerusalem, the people dreamed of a Messiah.

In Bethlehem, the shepherds and Wise Men dreamed of a new beginning.

Then, several years later, Jesus walked this earth and dreams came true.

The sick were healed.

The poor had food.

The forgotten and ignored were seen.

The children were welcomed.

Everyone was invited to the table, and the world has never been the same.

So tonight, we are those who dream.

Tonight, we dream the same dreams of our ancestors before us.

Tonight, we dream of justice and mercy, of love and kindness, of peace and hope.

Tonight we dream of a God that draws near to us out of unfailing love.

May this candle be a reminder that there will be a day when every dream will be fulfilled. And until then, we will be those who dream.

Prayer for Tonight

Holy God,

If we listen closely, we can almost hear the angels sing.

If we listen closely, we can almost hear the bleats of sheep following shepherds,

And the hooves of confused barn animals.

If we listen closely, we can almost hear the innkeeper say, "No room."

If we listen closely, we can almost hear the star whisper, "Follow me."

If we listen closely, God, we can almost hear you.

Pause for a moment of silence.

So, as we turn to your Word, Holy Writer, don't let us miss a thing—

The smell of the hay, the cool of the air, the way Mary cherished this wild dream in her heart.

We want to hear it all; we don't want to miss a thing.

So tonight we pray—can you help us listen closely?

Amen.

The Gloria

Jacqueline A. Burnette

Glory be to the Christ-Child, God's strength made weak, has come to light our way.

As the Firstborn of Creation, the Alpha and Omega,

Wonderful birth, God has come to earth.

Instrumental

Jubilate Deo

Richard Tremarello

A Poem for Christmas Eve

To carry a dream
Is to walk at night,
Or to walk by light,
But with a pebble in your shoe.
To carry a dream is to
Wake at night
To wake and blink twice,
In case you see something new.
To carry a dream
Is to plant trees in old age,
To be a part of a church,
That is human and frayed.
To carry a dream is foolish and wild.
It's the faith of a child,
Wishing on stars.

To Carry a Dream

But to carry a dream is also hopeful
and wise,
The faith of our elders,
Saying God will provide.
So may we walk
Until we see the light.
May the pebble in our shoe
Remind us why we fight.
May they say
We are foolish and unwise,
And may we continue to dream;
May hope keep us alive.

Sarah Are

Call to Offering

Doxology

Tune: The First Noel

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

A-men.

Lessons and Carols

Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings, Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Mark 1:1-8

Carol

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

1. 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's all gracious King": the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

3. For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen 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 all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Matthew 1:18-24

Solo

Breath of Heaven
Performed by Nancy Charles

Amy Grant

Matthew 2:1-6

Carol

Joy to the World!

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her king; Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

(see next page for vs. 2-4)

2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ; While field and floods, rocks hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

Luke 2:1-7

Solo

O Magnum Mysterium
Performed by Rich Tremarello

Byrd

Luke 2:8-14

Carol

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night, beheld throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

John 1:1-5, 14

Christ Church Choir Piece

He Is Born
Performed by the Christ Church Choir and Friends

arranged by Jack Schrader

The Homily

The Only One

Rev. Dan Stark

Instrumental

Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child

Richard Tremarello

The Great Thanksgiving

Greensleeves, adapted Beth Quick

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.

We gather on this holy eve. We gather at this table.

**Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

The Story

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Silent Night by Candlelight
Nancy Charles and Pam Kothrade

Benediction

By the tender mercy of our God, love has broken upon us!
Light is given where once there was darkness,
and hope where there was only death.

Go in Peace!

The Christ Child is coming! Amen!

Postlude

Postlude on Adeste Fidelis

Thiman

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Thanks

~We accept with thanks and appreciation a Christmas memorial donation from Kathleen Schroeder in memory of her mother Ann Schroeder.

**If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.**

We are currently worshiping online-only. Learn more here.

<https://www.uccmke.org/covid-advent>

You can make your offering to Christ Church at www.uccmke.org/donate or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

