

The Falls Village Congregational Church

December 24, 2020

5:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Rev. Dr. Richard W. Reifsnyder

Greeting and Welcome

Ringling of the Church Bell

Prelude -Hodie! Alleluia! - M. L. Lightfoot

Trans. *Hodie Christus natus est* - Today Christ is born!

Call to Worship:

Come away, come today to Bethlehem.

Come adore the one of whose birth the angels sing.

Come away, to a place of quiet and peace.

Come with wonder and take your place among sheep and cattle, among shepherds and angels.

Sing the good news of Emmanuel: God with us.

Christ has come!

Come and adore him, Christ the Lord!

Lighting of The Christ Candle

Maria and Larry Bulson

Hymn #148 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" v. 1

Opening Prayer (unison)

We praise you, hidden God, that in Jesus Christ you have come to speak your Word of love and life. Touch us with unearthly joy, like the singing of angels; fill us with wonder, like the eyes of children; teach us to humble ourselves before you like the worshipping magi. May our journey to be manger be only the beginning of a lifetime of service to Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together, "Our Father..."

The Christmas Story according to Luke

Luke 2:1-7

Frank Hadsell

Carol 162 "What Child is This" v. 1

Luke 2:8-20

Dick Heinz

Carol 155 "Angels We Have Heard on High" v. 1

A Christmas Meditation "The Presence We Receive"

The Offertory - O Holy Night - A. Adam, arr. S. DeFord
flutists- Susan Kelsey and Debbie Mark

A Christmas Prayer

The Spreading of Christ's Light

(While "Away in the Manger" is being played quietly, create a circle around the sanctuary, keeping socially distanced. The light will then be spread around the circle. When every one's candle is lit, we'll sing vv. 1, 4 of Carol 145 "Silent Night")

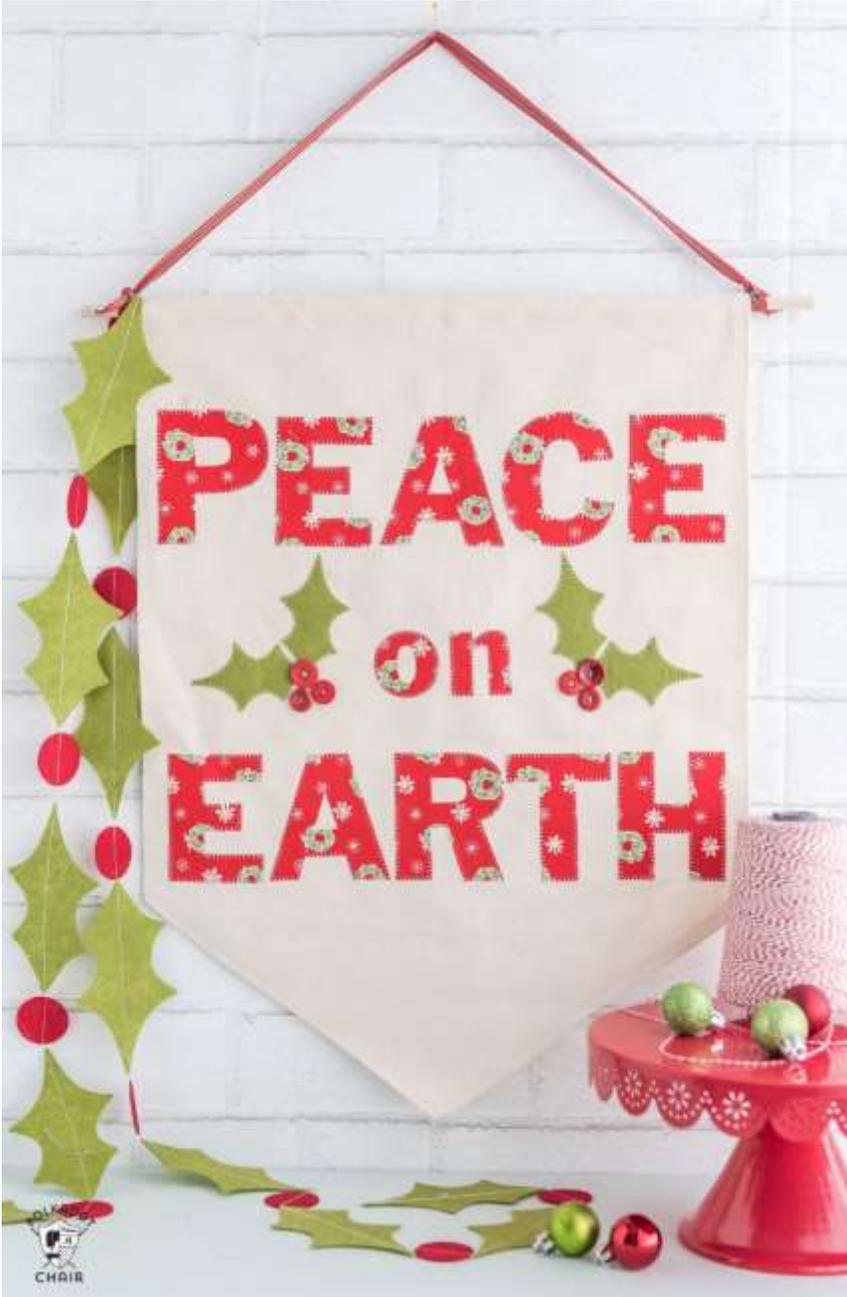
Benediction

Please remain seated for the carols, except when we sing "Silent Night"

Thank you to our music director Liz Allyn, for leading us throughout the year.

Our candles have been lit this evening with the flame of the Peace Light of Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. The Peace light is a Boy Scout project and this year marks the ninth year we have had it for Christmas Eve, thanks to Sandy Rhoades, a Boy Scout leader in our NW corner.

~A Blessed Christmas to All of You ~



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O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful, and tri - um - phant,
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our sal - va - tion,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Descant
 3, 4. O come, O come,

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

let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lon!
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lon!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2: 1-7

In 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.

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3. So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Christ-ian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing,
 the King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma-ry:

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.

What Child Is This

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1. What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3. So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Christ-ian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.
 the King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma-ry:

Silent Night, Holy Night

145

1. Si-lent night, ho-ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si-lent night, ho-ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si-lent night, ho-ly night, Son of God, love's pure light
 4. Si-lent night, ho-ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir-gin moth-er and child, ho-ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,
 glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far, heav-en-ly hosts sing al-le-lu-ia;
 ra-diant beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re-deem-ing grace,
 with the 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.