

# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2009

Musical Recital

10:30-11:00

Greetings

Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: Christmas is the festival of God's great gift of Jesus Christ to the world.

**ALL: We have come to mark that event! We have come to rejoice in that gift!**

One: This is the night we remember the story of a young woman, a poor carpenter, a little town, and angels, shepherds, wise men, and a new born baby.

**ALL: This is a night of candles and carols, of silence and joy.**

One: Let us be open to God's spirit, born in the Christ child long ago, and seeking to be born anew in each of us, tonight.

Prelude

*"O Come All Ye Faithful"*

The Prophecy

Isaiah 9:2-7

\* Hymn

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

\* The Bidding Prayer (Unison)

**As you came in the stillness of the night so long ago, Lord Jesus, enter also our lives on this night. Overcome the darkness in the world with the light of your presence. Calm the world's chaos with your message of peace and goodwill. Free each of us from our personal bondage with the salvation only you can bring. Amen.**

The Advent Wreath

Carole and Ben Hoover

Music of the Bells

*"Tidings of Comfort and Joy"*

Wagner

## THE STORY RETOLD

The Birth is Announced

St. Luke 1:26-35

A Christian Musical

*"Go Tell It!"*

arr. by Jack Schrader

\* A Christmas Affirmation (Unison)

**I believe in Jesus Christ, and in the beauty of the gospel that began in Bethlehem. I believe in Him whose spirit glorified a little town; in Him whose coming only shepherds saw the sign and for whom the crowded inn**

**could find no room. I believe in Him who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible: in Him whose cradle was a mother's arm, whose home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth;**

**I believe in Him who looked at people and made them see what His love saw in them; in Him who by His love, brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.**

**I acknowledge the glory of all that is Christ-like, the steadfastness of friends, the blessedness of homes, the beauty of compassion, the miracle of hearts made kind at Christmas, the courage of those who dare resist all injustice, hate and war.**

**I believe that only by love expressed, shall the earth at length be purified. For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

The Message is Spread

*"Go Tell It!"*

The Christmas Eve Offering

The Offertory

\* The Offering Repsonse

*"The First Nowell"*

The Light of the World

St. John 1:1-5

\*Hymn

*"Silent Night! Holy Night!"*

\*Prayer of Peace (Unison)

**We pray that strength and courage abundant be given to all who work for a world of reason and understanding; that the good that lies in all persons' hearts may day by day be magnified; that they will come to see more clearly not that which divides them, but that which unites them, that each hour may bring us closer to a final victory, not of nation over nation, but of men and women over evil and weakness; that the true spirit of this Christmas Season—its joy, its beauty, its hope, and above all its abiding faith—may live among us; and finally, that the blessings of peace be ours—the peace to build and grow, to live in harmony and sympathy with others, and to plan for the future with confidence. Amen.**

\* Closing Hymn

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

\* Postlude