

# Christmas Eve Worship & Communion



*Sketch by Choir Member, Leander Mendoza*

December 24, 2017

11:00 pm

## An Anti-carol

All they wanted was a shelter,  
Just a place to call their own,  
But there wasn't room to house them  
In that overcrowded town:  
For it seems the Welfare Service  
Was the sort that soon breaks down.  
So don't sing alleluia  
And don't sing gloria!

They were strangers, Galileans,  
And the man a carpenter,  
Though not quite the helpless people  
Who are permanently poor,  
No one beckoned them to enter  
As they knocked from door to door.  
So don't sing alleluia  
And don't sing gloria!

She was pregnant, more's the pity,  
And her time was not far off.  
It's the awkward compilation  
That upsets the planner's graph:  
If it wasn't so pathetic  
It would make the angels laugh.  
So don't sing alleluia  
And don't sing gloria!

As we know they found a lodging  
In the backyard of an inn:  
Not the best accommodation  
She could have her baby in—  
But it's all a God can hope for  
When God's up against our sin.  
So don't sing alleluia  
And don't sing gloria!

But to know that God's salvation  
Is an all embracing care;  
But to see what Christ is doing  
And to find a way to share:  
Is to sing our hymns and carols  
As a challenge to despair.  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Alleluia, gloria!

-Fred Pratt Green

# WORSHIP & COMMUNION

## Silent Reflection

*Silence will be observed while the music plays until 11:00 pm. During the silence, we invite you to open yourself to God through prayer and reflection. You may choose to close your eyes and rest in the silence. You may find that the art on the cover, the ballad on the facing page, or the beauty of the sanctuary inspires personal prayer and reflection.*

*This silence is for you. Welcome it even as God welcomes you.*

Music for Reflection *Carols for Flute & Organ* -arr. Overton/Galway Kim North, flute  
Lynette Wahlstrom, organ

*Silent Night* -Gruber, *Il est Né* -French carol, *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* -Praetorius,  
*O Jesulein Suss* -J.S. Bach, *O du Fröliche* -German carol, *Noel Nouvelet* -French carol  
*El noi de la Mare* -Catalonian carol, *Coventry Carol/ What Child is This* -arr. McCaskill/ Gilliam,  
*I Wonder as I Wander* -Niles (Appalachian carol)

## We Gather for Worship

### Summoning Prayer

Rev. Jenny Drewitz

*Reader* In the beginning  
when it was very quiet,  
the Word was with God.

*All* **And what God was, the Word was.**

### *Procession of the Word*

Deacon Marsha Hurshman

*Reader* In the beginning  
when it was very dark,  
God said, 'Let there be light.'

*All* **And there was light.**

### *Procession of the Light*

Deacon David Morse

*Reader* When the time was right  
God sent the Son.

*All* **He came among us, he was one of us.**

### *Procession of the Son*

Addison Edwards

## Silent Reflection

\*Carol #41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ADESTE FIDELES) Congregation

## We Celebrate the Light

1. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a, 2. in ex - cél - sis De - o!

3. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a, 4. al - le - lú - ia, al - le - lú - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains two phrases: '1. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a,' and '2. in ex - cél - sis De - o!'. The second staff contains two phrases: '3. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a,' and '4. al - le - lú - ia, al - le - lú - ia!'. The notes are written in a simple, accessible style.

The Light of Hope: Isaiah 9:2-7  
*Sung Response*

Deacon Anthony Zadeh

The Light of Peace: John 1:1-14  
*Sung Response*

Jenny Edwards

The Light of Joy: Luke 2:1-7  
*Sung Response*

Dahrl Whitney

The Light of Love: Luke 2:8-14  
*Sung Response*

Deacon Kathy Schwartzentruher

The Light of Christ: Luke 2:15-20  
*Sung Response*

Deacon Arla Johnson

Homily     *A Song We Sing Together: Gloria in Excelsis Deo*     Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards

## We Prepare to Welcome the Light

Offertory Anthem                      *O Holy Night* -Adam                      Natasha Sider, soloist  
*If you would like to give an offering tonight, offering plates are located at the doors at the back of the sanctuary. You may give as you depart.*

Christmas Prayer of Confession                      Rev. Jenny Drewitz & Congregation  
**God who dwells among us, we confess to you the times that we are like the shepherds fearful of what your message brings. We dwell in a land that is filled with deep shadows, and yet your light bursts upon us. Show us the way to Bethlehem, that we may witness your coming and live as children of the light. And when all is made known, help us return to our fields, glorifying and praising you for all we have seen and heard.**

Words of Assurance

\*Carol                      #23 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (GLORIA)                      Congregation

## We Receive the Light

### The Peace

*Celebrants* The angels said it to startled shepherds  
and Jesus said it to frightened followers.  
And now these words which come from heaven  
are shared to make us whole and make us one:  
Peace be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

### The Invitation to Feast

*Celebrants* Holy God,  
In the beginning was darkness, mystery, and you.  
By your own Word, you shattered the darkness with light.  
You set in the sky radiant beams of sunlight  
and punctured the night sky with sparkling jewels.  
You forever changed our darkness

Ever-persistent and ever-loving God, you placed a star in the sky  
to guide people from far and near to your child.  
Jesus became the Light of the World,  
drawing the lost and forgotten, the hurt and the wounded,  
the oppressed and depressed to the wellspring of life.  
He changed water into wine,  
called unheralded workers to be disciples,  
preached good news to the poor,  
healed the sick and beckoned people to love their neighbour.  
By his baptism, suffering, death and resurrection he revealed  
the depths of your love and the power of light over darkness.

\*Carol #499 *Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed* (PENTECOST) Congregation

*Celebrant* On the night he gave himself up, Jesus gathered with his friends.  
They sang a hymn and shared a feast to remember God's  
work to bring the liberating Light to all peoples.

During the meal, Jesus took bread.  
And when he had blessed it, he broke it  
and said to his disciples,  
"This is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me."

Later in the meal, he took a cup of wine;  
and after he had given thanks he said,  
"In this cup is the new relationship with God made possible  
because of my death. Drink it, all of you... to remember me."

So we will do as Jesus did.  
 We take this bread and this wine,  
 the produce of the earth  
 and the work of human hands  
 through which Jesus has promised  
 to make himself known.

And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us follow his example.

The Lord's Prayer

LORD'S PRAYER (HAAS)

Our Fa - ther in heav - en,  
 7  
 hal - low - ed be your name. Your king - dom come, your will be done on  
 11  
 earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For -  
 15  
 give - - us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us -  
 20  
 - Save us from the time of trial and de - liv - er us from  
 24  
 e - vil, for the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for -  
 28  
 ev - er.

Silent Reflection





**First Baptist Church Halifax - Where Faith Comes  
To Life!**

**Founded in 1827**

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**Our Mission**

To be an inclusive and ecumenical community of believers in Jesus Christ, committed to proclaim God's mission of love by word and deed.

**Our Vision**

To be a Christ-centered community of diverse people experiencing God's unconditional love and acceptance, finding opportunities to grow and nurture our faith, and sharing that love, acceptance and faith with the world.

***“Using gifts God has given us to do the work God is calling us to do!”***