

Arcade United Church of Christ
welcomes YOU to



Night of the Father's Love

by Pepper Choplin



December 19, 2021
Arcade United Church of Christ

4:30 p.m.
Arcade, NY

Welcoming Music *Laurie Sledge, keyboards*

Someday words & music - Rick Vale
Vanessa Adams, soprano

Words of Welcome *Pastor Josh Bower*

Opening Prayer *Pastor Josh Bower*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Please stand as you are able and sing as you are comfortable.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain

Thank you. You may be seated.
Come with us and experience a fresh telling of the
Christmas story that is worshipful and beautiful.

Night of the Father's Love

by Pepper Choplin

Narration 1: Jeff Mason, Kim Bechdel, Vanessa Adams

A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

The Coming of the Lord

Quoting "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" 12th Century

Lift up your heads, O gates, and make the highway straight,
Prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord.
Your waiting soon will end, God's glory will descend,
rise up and welcome in the coming of the Lord.

Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord!
The ancient words foretell, God with us He will dwell,
Christ, our Emmanuel,
and all will see the glory of the Lord!

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.
O come, O come, Prepare the way! O come prepare the way!
And then the deaf will hear, the blind will see Him clear,
The mute will find their voice, the lame will leap for joy,

Prepare the way of the coming of the Lord!
Rejoice! Emmanuel, our God, will come to us.
Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord!

Narration 2: Helena Vogt, Dona Roll, Rich Vogt

We gather here to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. We come to remember when God visited the earth in the form of a child.

And we meet to worship the Lord and to celebrate the new life He offers us. We pray that we will experience God's presence in a fresh way. This is the true meaning of Christ's birth.

The angel said He would be called "Emmanuel," which means, "God with us," God is always with us. But when we welcome His Spirit into our hearts and minds, we experience the comfort and the power of God's presence. Before Christ came into the world, God's people awaited his arrival for centuries. So now, we wait – that God will move among us as we listen to the story of the Christmas miracle.

The psalmist said, "...the Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."

Come...let us be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.

Waiting

Waiting, we are waiting, Lord.
Fill the mind 'til we find Your light, Your truth.
Fill the mind 'til we find Your will, Your way.

Now let us know Your presence Lord,
Emmanuel, God, be with us.
We welcome You with open hearts,
Emmanuel, God, be with us. Emmanuel.
Listening, we are listening, Lord.
Draw near, let us hear Your Word for us.

Patience, give us patience, Lord.
When we pray, give us faith that You hear every prayer.
As we're waiting... We are waiting... Waiting...

Narration 3: Jeff Mason, Kim Bechdel, Vanessa Adams

While the world waited, the Spirit of God
was stirring. Angels began to appear and brought
messages to earth as they prepared for Christ's birth.

And the angel said to Mary, ...

then an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah, ...
Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a
dream saying, "Fear not..."

"Fear not, Zechariah, your prayer has been heard."

"...fear not, Joseph, to take Mary as your wife..."

"Fear not, Mary for you have found favor with God."

"Zechariah, your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,
and you are to give him the name, John."

"And behold, Mary, you will conceive in your womb,
and you shall bring forth a son..."

"...and she shall bring forth a son..."

"...and you shall bring forth a son, and shall call his name
Jesus."

"...and you shall call his name Jesus."

Angels Are Making Their Rounds

based on Matthew 1 and Luke 1

Angels are making their rounds, O what a beautiful sound,
angels are making their rounds.

Alto: Fear not, Zechariah, for the Lord has heard your prayer;
Elizabeth will bear a son.

Soprano: Hail, O blessed one, you have found favor with God,
O blessed one, you have found favor with God.

Angels are making their rounds,

O my, what a beautiful sound.

Heaven's glory comes down
when angels are making their rounds.

Bass: Fear not, Joseph, go and take Mary to be your wife,

for she carries a holy Child.

Tenor: Unto you is born a Savior,
glory to God and peace on earth,
for now the Lord is with you.

Fear not, the Lord is with you.

Narration 4: Helena Vogt, Dona Roll, Rich Vogt

The angels said, "Fear not, the Lord is with you."

This is the essence of the Christmas story:
that God became flesh and lived among us.

It is a great story of love. For God so loved the world
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish...
...should not perish, but have everlasting life.

"Fear not, for the Lord is with you."

Listen as Luke records Christ's birth, when the Lord
of Heaven and earth became flesh and lived among us.

"And so it was, that, while they were there,
the days were accomplished that she
should be delivered. And she brought forth
her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger, because there was no room
for them in the inn."

Night of the Father's Love

Text: Aurelius Prudentius, 5th Century;

*Music based on Divinum Mysterium, 11th Century;
quoting Silent Night by Gruber and Mohr*

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be.

He is Alpha and Omega. He, the source, the ending, He.

Of the things that are, that have been

and the future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm,
all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and Child.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Narration 5: Jeff Mason, Kim Bechdel, Vanessa Adams

“Fear not, for the Lord is with you.”
As the child was born, the angels continued
to bring their message of comfort to the earth.
And there were in the same country,
shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch
over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel
of the Lord came upon them, and the glory
of the Lord shone round about them;
and they were sore afraid.
And the angel said unto them, “Fear not...”
“...fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings
of great joy.”

The Shepherd's Song

*Words based on "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks,"
by Nathan Tate, 1700*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came near
and glory shone around.

He said, "Fear not for I bring good news, it shall be for all people.
For unto you is born this day a Savior, Christ the Lord."
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

“For unto you is born this day, there, in Bethlehem,
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be your sign:
and this shall be the sign to you: for you shall find the baby,

there, all wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

The angel then was surrounded by a great and glorious throng,
and while the shepherds watched by night,
the angels raised their song:
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Narration 6: Helena Vogt, Dona Roll, Rich Vogt

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea,
magi from the east came to Jerusalem.
They had seen a star in the east and had come
to worship Him. Like the magi, we seek the Lord
and remember the words of the psalmist: “O God,
you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts
for You, my body longs for You in a dry and weary land.”

Seeking the King

Quoting "We Three Kings" by John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

Seeking, seeking the newborn King...

The road is dark, the dust is dry.
We find our path by starlight.
We are seeking, we are seeking.

Though we are tired, the journey's long,
we walk in faith to carry on.
We are seeking, we are seeking.

We bring gold to crown Him with royalty,
frankincense to show His divinity.
We bring myrrh, the fragrance used when someone dies,
though we're not sure the reason why.

Seeking, seeking the newborn King...

Now, we are so tired, we've come so far,

but now, once again, we see the star.
We see the star, now we rejoice with great joy!
We're rejoicing for now we see the

star of wonder, star of night, star of royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

Seeking, seeking the newborn King...

And when we find the newborn King,
our greatest gift we then shall bring
when we worship the King.

We will worship the King, we'll worship the newborn King.

Narration 7: Jeff Mason, Kim Bechdel, Vanessa Adams

When the magi saw the Child, they bowed down
and worshipped Him. Then they opened their
treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold,
and of incense, and of myrrh.

We can join the magi in their giving as we
draw near to the Lord and open the treasures
of our hearts. Instead of gold, frankincense,
and myrrh, we bring our gifts of love, adoration,
and praise as we bow to worship the King of Kings,
the Prince of Peace.

Fall on Your Knees

Quoting "O Holy Night" by Adolph Adam

Come, see the Child, He is here by the fire,
silently come, draw near the manger side.
Look in His face and see the world's salvation,
feel the holy peace, fall on your knees.

Open your eyes, now the holy star is rising,
rays of the light will shine to touch your soul.

Open your heart to the glory and the wonder.

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Feel the holy peace, fall on your knees.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

Come now, and fall on your knees
as you worship in His presence.
Thanks be to God you have found the holy Child.

Blessed are all who have seen the Lord's salvation.
Come and lift your voice.
Let your heart rejoice and praise the Prince of Peace.
Fall on your knees.

Narration 8: Helena Vogt, Dona Roll, Rich Vogt

When we are in the presence of the Lord,
we feel His holy peace; and all is well.
Because of Christ's birth, all is well between
God and us. For through this great gift from heaven,
we are reconciled with God and can experience
holy peace in our souls and new life in Christ.
To celebrate this new life, we come to sing, "Nowell."
Some scholars believe that the word, "Nowell,"
began as a shortened form of the phrase,
"Now all is well."

In old England, perhaps people used this as the Christmas
greeting, "Christ is born," to which would come the
response, "Nowell!" Let's do this together.

Christ is born! **NOWELL!**

Christ is born! **NOWELL!**

Christ is born! **NOWELL!**

Christ Is Born, Nowell!

*Quoting "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" by Mendelssohn and
Wesley and "Angels We Have Heard on High"- French carol*

Hark! The herald angels sing, Angels we have heard on high,

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"Glory to the newborn King." sweetly singing o'er the plains,
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
Heaven's angels come to tell, "Christ is born, Nowell!"
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
Joyous news come to tell, "Christ is born, Nowell!"
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
Joyous news come to tell, "Now Christ is born! Now all is well!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n 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."
Nowell! Joyous news come to tell, "Christ is born, Nowell!"
Nowell! Now Christ is born! Sing Nowell!

Please join us downstairs in Wetzel Hall for
pizza and wassail. Then we can all move up to
Main Street for hot chocolate and Arcade's 2nd
Annual Christmas Tractor Parade!

Special thanks to Ginger Comstock, and Jamey
and Bill Craft for organizing pizza and rides!

Arcade United Church of Christ Choir

Soprano

Vanessa Adams*
Helena Vogt

Tenor

Dona Roll

*Second soprano

Alto

Kim Common
Jo Sixt

Bass

Jeff Mason
Rich Vogt

Laurie Sledge, Accompanist
Dona Roll, Conductor
Skip Tillinghast, Sound

Merry Christmas!
Now all is well!

