

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN

Songs and Stories of the Season

Christmastide, 2020

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people” -Luke 2.10 (KJV)



Welcome and Lighting the Christ Candle

Keith M. Haithcock

In the beginning there was the Word;
In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light—
a Light that shines in the darkness,
a Light that the darkness has never overtaken. -*John 1.1a, 4-5*

Christmas Organ Prelude

Mark Behnken

“Fanfare on ADESTE FIDELES” -G.F. Handel; arr. Dr. Mark A. Behnken

Anthem

“Gloria in excelsis” (from Gloria) -Antonio Vivaldi
The combined ensembles of St. John UCC & Christ Church UCC;
The South Bank Quartet with Dave Zeng, trumpet

Solo

“In the Bleak Midwinter” -Gustav Holst, arr. Frank J. Halferty
Sarah Palm, clarinet; Steve Phillips, piano

Christmas Prayer

Keith M. Haithcock

Carol Sing

Keith M. Haithcock, vocalist; Mark Behnken, organ

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echo back their joyous strains.
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo, Glo- - - ria in excelsis Deo.

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

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 men, From heaven's all-gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

Jewish and Advent Oracle

Isaiah 9.2-7

Richard Robbins

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep
darkness—

on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of
Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping
warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and
forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do
this.

Handbells “For unto Us a Child is Born” (from Messiah) -*G. F. Handel*
St. John Handbell Choir

Duet “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” -*arr. by Lloyd Larson*
Berni Finfrock, flute; Sarah Palm, clarinet; Theo Baldwin, piano

Carol Sing Steve Milloy, vocalist; Mark Behnken, organ
“The First Noel”

The first Noel the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay –
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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.”

Hail the heaven-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 we no more may die:
Born to raise the souls on earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angles sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Children's Story "Humphrey's First Christmas" -Carol Heyer Keith M. Haithcock

Guitar Duet "What Child is This" (Greensleeves) -*Traditional English Melody*
Anthony Palm and Adeline Palm

Nativity Story Luke 2.1-7 Cherie Draper

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And 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.

Solo "Who Would Imagine a King" -*Mervyn Warren / Hallerin Hilton Hill*
Saba Smith, vocalist

Angels Story Luke 2.8-14 Cherie Draper

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And 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!"

Solo "Mary Did You Know" -*Mark Lowry / Buddy Greene*
Jennie Malone, vocalist

Trio

“Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child”
-Traditional African American Spiritual; arr. Steve Milloy
Charmaine Moore-Kitsinis and Maria Moore-Kitsinis, vocalists;
and Steve Milloy, vocalist and piano

Shepherds Story

Luke 2.15-20

Cherie Draper

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.

Carol Sing

“Stille Nacht / Silent Night” -Franz Gruber

David Major (German) and Melissa Stephens (English), vocal leaders

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

Christmas Postlude

Mark Behnken

“ANTIOCH” -G.F. Handel; arr. Dr. Mark A. Behnken

**Thank you for joining us in this celebration of
Christmas at St. John – Songs and Stories of the Season
No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey
you are welcome here.**

Merry Christmas!

Service Planners

Keith M. Haithcock, Pastor & Teacher; Steve Milloy, Director of Music

Handbells

Stephanie Dalsfoist, coordinator; Theo Baldwin, Sue Jelinek,
Sarah Palm, Steve Phillips, Alex Dalsfoist

Flutist

Berni Finfrock

Clarinetist

Sarah Palm

Guitarists

Anthony Palm, Adeline Palm

Pianists

Theo Baldwin, Steve Phillips, Steve Milloy

Organist

Mark Behnken

Combined Ensembles

Christ Church, United Church of Christ Ft. Thomas, KY:
Talia Zoll, Susan McDonald, Brenda Swan, Tony Burdette,
Jeff McDonald, and Larry Stinson

and

St. John United Church of Christ Bellevue, KY:

Stephanie Dalsfoist, Jennie Malone, Melissa Stephens, Theo Baldwin, Steve Milloy

The South Bank Quartet:

Evan Hurley and Hayley Rudolph, violin; Rebecca Flank, viola;
Ellen Stephens, cello; with Dave Zeng, trumpet

Other Vocalists

David Major, Melissa Stephens, Keith M. Haithcock, Jennie Malone, Saba Smith,
Charmaine Moore-Kitsinis, Maria Moore-Kitsinis

Chancel Ministry (Visual Arts)

Doug Baldrige, Karl Frey, Pat and Charles Giglia, Matthew Southerland

Storytellers

Cherie Draper, Richard Robbins, Keith M. Haithcock

Videographers

Cherie Draper, Keith M. Haithcock, Steve Milloy, Richard Robbins

Video Editing, Production, and Posting

Edward Goode, Theo Baldwin, Mitch Leigh

Administrative Assistant to the Pastor

Linda Schuster

This video will be available for viewing on YouTube starting at 4:00pm on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020, and will serve as our virtual worship service for the First Sunday after Christmas, December 27, 2020 (The 3rd Day of Christmas).

**If you would like to know more about St. John United Church of Christ contact us at: www.StJohnChurch.net; Office@StJohnChurch.net; 859.261.2066
520 Fairfield Avenue, Bellevue, Kentucky 41073**



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Children's Story *Humphrey's First Christmas* Written and Illustrated by Carol Heyer © 2007 by Carol Heyer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qs8FYj390o>; **Isaiah 9.2-7, Luke 2.1-20** from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.