

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM A CHRISTMAS EVE EXPERIENCE



Miller First United Methodist Church

December 24, 2020



Tonight's Christmas Eve Experience will have you hearing from Scripture and (hopefully) singing some beloved Christmas hymns as you go on a journey. During each hymn you will be asked to drive to a different location around town. If you need to pause the recorded service in order to have enough time to reach the destination, please do so. The locations are important parts of our story tonight. Please join us at the church parking lot at 6:00 pm for the closing of our worship with candlelight, communion, and a carol or two. But now, let's begin our journey:

Intro and Opening Prayer

Lord's Prayer: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Micah 5:2-5a

Please proceed to the Armory parking lot, as we sing together:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.

(Chorus)

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

(Chorus)

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.

(Chorus)

CCLI Song # 4826282

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

Please proceed to the courthouse as we sing:

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

CCLI Song # 31999

Scripture: Luke 2:1-3. Luke 2:4-5

Let us travel to the Dakota House as we sing:

“People, Look East”

People look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

People look east and sing today: Love, the Rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

CCLI Song # 3011380

Scripture: Luke 2:6-7

Let's travel outside of town. Get away from the town lights, somewhere you can look over a field and see the stars. While you drive, let us sing:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

CCLI Song # 27879

Scripture: Luke 2:8-10

Please drive to Crystal Park and as you go, let's sing:

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Chorus: **Gloria, In excelsis Deo!**
Gloria, In excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
(Chorus)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
(Chorus)

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.
(Chorus)

CCLI Song # 27721

Scripture: Luke 2:11-20

Let's travel to the library as we sing:

“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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav'n-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 us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

CCLI Song # 27738

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-6, 9-11

And now, you are invited to return to the church parking lot. Our service will conclude there beginning at 6:00. As we travel back to the church, let us sing:

“We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Chorus

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

(Chorus)

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high.

(Chorus)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.

(Chorus)

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

(Chorus)

CCLI Song # 38002

Holy Communion

Scripture: John 1:1-5, 10-14

“Silent Night”

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.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at thy birth,
Jesus Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

CCLI Song # 27862

Blessing:

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

CCLI Song # 24016

A night sky with a bright star and silhouettes of the Three Kings on camels. The background is a dark blue gradient with a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper right. At the bottom, the silhouettes of three camels with riders are shown against a dark horizon line.

*May the peace and hope of
Christ's birth
be with you now and in the days ahead...*