



I Believe Even When...

Asbury Memorial Church

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE 2020

PRELUDE *Advent Celebration* Asbury Choir

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Billy Hester & Hank

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A father to be, feeling the weight of responsibility,
far from home, anxious;

All: Joseph, God is with you!

One: A mother to be, wondering about childbirth,
far from her family, troubled;

All: Mary, God is with you!

One: A child in the womb, warm, secure, waiting;

All: Jesus, God is with you!

One: The love of God, surrounding the holy family;

All: And surrounding us and our families always.

*HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him Born the king of angels:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

INVOCATION Rev. Claire Marich

LESSONS & CAROLS

Luke 2:1-7
Still, Still, Still

Luke 2:8-14
I Wonder as I Wander

Luke 2:15; Matthew 2:1-10
Mary, Did You Know?

Matthew 2:12 -15; Luke 2:40
I Believe

READING One Solitary Life

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INVITATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

On this night, when we sing of the baby in the manger,
as the shadow of the cross is cast by the stars,
we proclaim that mystery called incarnation:

**Christ is our light,
and we will join the angels in singing the good news;
Christ is our life,
and we will join the disciples in telling the Story;
Christ is our promise,
and we wait for the joy of his return.**

Here in the silence and the singing,
with children, carols, and candlelight,
we come to your Table of joy,
as you pour out your Spirit upon

the most precious gifts of bread and cup.
 As we feast upon the bread,
 we remember a young pregnant girl,
 and would serve those who are expecting,
 those who cannot have a child,
 those who have lost children.
 As we drink from the cup,
 we think of a worried father,
 and would be with those who assemble toys this night,
 as well as those who will work this night
 to pay for food and medicine for their families.
 As we are surrounded by family and friends,
 we would care for
 those whose closest companion is loneliness,
 those separated from loved ones,
 those who hear no music, joy, or hope in their lives.

And when all time and history becomes silence,
 we will be gathered with our sisters and brothers
 from Bethlehem and Belfast, from Cairo and Chicago,
 from Capetown and Istanbul, from Sydney and Shanghai,
 from every corner and moment of every universe,
 to join the angel choirs in forever singing your praises
 as we dance to the Table of wonder and grace,
 God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS

*After Rev. Hester blesses the bread and wine, the choir will sing,
 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming. During the song, please partake
 of your communion elements and remain in a spirit of prayer.*

*HYMN

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;
 Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
 Christ the Savior is born.
 Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, Holy night.
 Son of God, loves 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!

BENEDICTION

Rev. Hester

One: Let us go to be the gift another needs,
**All: sharing God's blessings of love and grace,
 running to tell the Story we heard from the shepherds.**
 One: Let us go to be the comfort which can swaddle others,
**All: sharing Jesus' compassion with the poor and needy,
 welcoming the holiness offered by the most vulnerable
 we meet.**
 One: Let us go to enkindle the lives around us,
**All: sharing the Spirit's peace with all the broken,
 learning the language of hope from the children in our
 midst. Amen.**

SONG

**We wish you a merry Christmas!
 We wish you a merry Christmas!
 We wish you a merry Christmas,
 and a happy New Year!**

All