
BAYSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 17, 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent

LESSONS & CAROLS



WELCOME TO BAYSHORE

Welcome to Bayshore's annual Advent choral service. In this service we implicitly recognize there are truths best communicated by music. The spoken word, when sung, reaches places words alone never go. Some feelings must be expressed by the medium of music. This is certainly true of love.

"We who must die demand a miracle." W.H. Auden's words are not simply a stark reminder of our mortality. In the context of his epic Christmas poem, they are an expression of hope. The Eternal has done a temporal act. The infinite has become a finite fact. How do we respond to such a miracle? One answer is that we lift our hearts and voices in song. We are wise to remember that the first Christmas night the angels responded not with long theological prose, but with singing.

The point and purpose of this service is to help us encounter again what the incarnation means for us. Thank you for bringing your presence as we together lift our voices and open our hearts.

Rev. Dr. Scott Stearman
Senior Pastor

LESSONS & CAROLS

Prelude

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Angel Carols

Doug Brickett

Call to Worship

#76 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 3)

Julie Webb

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Scott & Andrell Brickett

Georgia & Miles

Reader One: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness."

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

ALL: We light the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step as we know the destination is joy.

Welcome & Collect

Rev. Dr. Scott Stearman

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Children's Choir

First Lesson—Luke 2:1-7

Gibbs Lee

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

† **Carol Sing-Along** (arr. D. Allen)

Chancel Choir & Congregation

Second Lesson—Luke 2:8-14

Melissa Scarle

There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in

David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

*Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.*

In the Bleak Midwinter (Holst / arr. D. Morre)

Chancel Choir

In the bleak midwinter | Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron | Water like a stone
Snow had fallen | Snow on snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter | Long, long ago
Angels and Arc Angels | May have traveled there
Cherubim and Seraphim | Thronged the air
But only his Mother | In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the beloved | With a kiss
What can I give him? | Poor as I am
If I were a shepherd | I would give a lamb
If I were a wise man | I would do my part
But what I can I give him | Give him my heart

Third Lesson - "For the Time Being" by W.H. Auden

Jordan Rivait

Alone, alone about a dreadful wood | Of conscious evil runs a lost mankind,
Dreading to find its Father lest it find The Goodness it has dreaded is not good:
Alone, alone about our dreadful wood. We who must die demand a miracle.
How could the Eternal do a temporal act, The Infinite become a finite fact?
Nothing can save us that is possible: We who must die demand a miracle.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (14th Century German melody)

Chancel Choir

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming | From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming | As men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright, Amid the cold of winter | When half-gone was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, She bore to men a Savior | When half-gone was the night.
This Flower, whose fragrance tender | With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us | And lightens every load

Fourth Lesson—Luke 2:15-20

Robert Koehler

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed. Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!

O Holy Night

Michael Costa & Julie Webb

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices.
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim

Children dismissed, Kindergarten–5th grade, are dismissed for Children's Church.

Offertory

Two Carols for Two Flutes

Marian Thomas &
Christina Koehler

Il est Ne/The Birthday of a King

Silent Night

Michael Costa, Mandolin
Agnieszka Zick, Piano

Doxology

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace;
Praise God for gifts of Joy and love;
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell;
On Earth for us – Emmanuel! Amen!

Fifth Lesson–Philippians 2:5-8

Jackson Pearce

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Rev. Victor Chesmore

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;

But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
And in great humility.

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word
That should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary.

When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing,
At Thy coming to victory, Let Thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee."
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, When Thou comest and callest for me.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Sixth Lesson—Matthew 1:18-23

Katie Daniel

The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they enjoyed their wedding night, Joseph discovered she was pregnant.

(It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that). Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced. While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—'God saves'—because he will save his people from their sins." This would bring the prophet's embryonic revelation to full term:

*Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son;
They will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us").*

† **Hymn**

#89 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Congregation

Seventh Lesson—John 1:1-5, 14

Dina Marshall

The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.

The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.
Everything was created through him;
nothing—not one thing!—
came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.

The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.

The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.

Go Tell It On the Mountain (arr. M. Hayes)

Cecelia Stearman

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Scott Stearman

W.H. Auden "For the Time Being"

He is the Way.
Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;
You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.
He is the Truth.
Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;
You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.
He is the Life.
Love Him in the World of the Flesh;
And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.

POSTLUDE

Doug Brickett

Postlude on In Dulci Jubilo



Please join us on Christmas Eve at 6pm for Christmas Eve Family Service.

3 WAYS TO GIVE

- ◆ Place tithes and offerings in the offering plates
- ◆ Text *bayshorebaptist* to (833) 245-9223
- ◆ Online at <https://pushpay.com/pay/bayshorebaptistchurch>



Budget Snapshot as of 12/10/2023

Budget Year to Date:	\$771,138.00
Giving Year to Date:	<u>\$690,447.00</u>
Amount Under Budget:	\$ 80,691.00
Expenses as of 11/30/23:	\$615,164.00

Luminaries

Don't forget to order your luminaries for the Christmas Eve Service. The cost is \$10 for each luminary you order (cash/check or [Pushpay.com/bayshorebaptistchurch](https://pushpay.com/bayshorebaptistchurch)). Order forms in the lobby and narthex.

Christmas Eve Service Yard Signs

There are just a few Bayshore Christmas Eve Service lawn left to put in your yard or window! It's a great way to share that all are welcome to our 6pm Christmas Eve Service. Take a photo of each sign you see around town, send it to Susie in the church office. #BBCinthewild

Advent Devotion Books

The 2023-2024 Advent Devotion Books available in the lobby.

Wednesday Night Activities

Our usual Wednesday Night activities are on hold until January. Rev. Scarle's Bible Study will be going strong on Zoom! (Zoom Meeting ID: 818 2880 0368, Passcode: 242176) at 6:30pm every Wednesday!

End of Year Contributions

All 2023 contributions must be received by the end of worship Sunday, December 31st. If you need to drop off a contribution at the church between Tuesday, December 26th and Friday, December 29th, please contact Deb Alexander at #717-580-9814.

Baptist Women in Ministry Movie Screening

Bayshore hosts a screening of "Midwives of a Movement," a documentary from Baptist Women in Ministry January 7th from 6-8pm. The movie chronicles the stories of the women who boldly sought greater visibility and opportunities for women in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) over 40 years ago.

Spiritual Spa—Save the Date!

Women of Bayshore, Save the Date! Plan to join us for a day retreat on Saturday, February 3rd as we take time to learn, connect and grow together. Our prayer is that you will come away feeling refreshed mind, body and spirit. Mark your calendars now and be sure to invite your friends!

Building For Hope Weekend February 16-18 in South Carolina Low Country

CBF Florida/Caribbean Islands and CBF SC, together, are offering an intergenerational mission engagement opportunity. Spend this weekend working on affordable housing projects, making a difference, and making new friends. Projects for all skill levels range from painting and light household repairs to building wheelchair ramps. For more information, contact Tammy Snyder or visit: <https://bit.ly/BuildingHope2024>.

CBF Global Missions

CBF banks are ready for you to fill and return. We will be collecting this offering through the end of 2023, highlighting it on Christmas Eve. Your gifts support the work of more than 50 field personnel in 18 countries as they bear witness to Jesus Christ, cultivate beloved community, and seek transformational development.

