
BAYSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 15, 2024

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

Julie Webb
Choir Director

Doug Brickett
Organist

Dr. Agnieszka Zick
Pianist

LESSONS & CAROLS

Prelude

Adoration of the King, *arr. Lyndell Leatherman*

Doug Brickett

Call to Worship

Once In David's Royal City

Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Sara & Farrah Cash

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.

Christmas Bells Are Ringing

Bayshore Children's Choir

First Lesson—Luke 2:1-7

Brooke Thomas

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.

He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child, arr. Lloyd Larson

Traditional French Carol

Chancel Choir

He is born, the divine Christ Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.
Through long ages of the past prophets have foretold His coming;
Through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!
He is born, the divine Christ Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.

O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect Child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift of God sent down.
He is born, the divine Christ Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.
Jesus Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us Thy heav'nly peace!
He is born, the divine Christ Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.
Sing we all of the Savior mild.
He is born the divine Christ Child!

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.*

Carol of the Star, arr. D. Morrel

Chancel Choir

Ancient French Carol

A star, a shining star, led wise men on their way to find
that Bethel'em town where lay a holy babe.
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.
A star, a guiding star led angels from above.
To seek a tiny babe, surround Him with their love.
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.
A star, a mighty star, did shine o'er all the earth.
To welcome Him with joy, proclaim His wondrous birth.
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.

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

Ava Lekarczyk

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.

One Small Child, arr. J. Carter

Chancel Choir

Words and music by David Meece

One small child in a land of a thousand,
One small dream of a Savior tonight,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight,
One small city of life.
Oh!

One King bringing his gold and his riches,
One king ruling his army of might,
One king kneeling with incense and candlelight,
One King bringing us life.
Oh!

See Him lying, a cradle beneath Him,
See Him smiling in the stall.
See His mother praising His Father;
See His tiny eyelids fall.
One small light from the flame of a candle,
One small light from a city of might,
One small light from the stars in the endless night,
One small light from a face.
Oh!

See the shepherds kneeling before Him,
See the kings on bended knee,
See his mother praising His Father;
See the Blessed Infant sleep.
One small Child in a land of a thousand,
One small dream in a people of might,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight,
One small Savior of life.
Oh!

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!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Michael Costa & Julie Webb

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

Offertory

Two Carols for Two Flutes

Chrissy Koehler
& Marian Thomas

Il est Ne/The Birthday of a King

Christmas Ukelele Medley

Michael Costa

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!

(sung to the tune on p. 253)

Fifth Lesson—Philippians 2:5-8

Alex Marroquin

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.

While Shepherds Watch Their Fields By Night

Rev. Victor Chesmore

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

"Fear not," said he for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes and in a manger laid."

Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favor rests goodwill shall never cease."

Sixth Lesson—Matthew 1:18-23

Rita Costa

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
Don Fuller, Violin

Seventh Lesson—John 1:1-5, 14

Lisa Lekarczyk

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.

Wonder As I Wander

Cecelia Stearman

A song by John J. Niles

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus, the savior, had come for to die
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, t'was in a cow's stall
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high in god's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages, it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
Or all of god's angels in heaven for to sing
He surely could have it, for he was the king!

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus, the savior, had come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like i.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

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

Joyous Proclamation, *arr. Susan Caudill*

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 11/30/2024	
Actual Income	\$631,256
Amount Under Budget	\$138,644
Actual Expenses	\$709,174

The altar flowers today are given by Julie Webb and Victor Chesmore in honor of Rosie Scott's 95th birthday!

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

Cookies and Carols

After Lessons and Carols, please gather in Fellowship Hall for "Cookies and Carols"! The Choir hosts refreshments and more singing as they take caroling requests to raise funds for new choir robes.

Luminaries

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

Christmas Eve Service Yard Signs

There are just a few Bayshore Christmas Eve Service lawn signs 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 and send it to Susie in the church office. #BBCinthewild

Advent Devotion Books

The 2024-2025 Advent Devotion Books available in the lobby.

End of Year Contributions

All 2024 contributions must be received at the Church Office by 5pm December 31st. If you need to drop off a contribution, please contact Deb Alexander at #717-580-9814.

"Persecution and Peace Religious Freedom Symposium"

Bayshore Baptist is proud and excited to host a symposium on Religious Freedom of ALL, January 11-12, 2025. The purpose of this symposium, oriented to faith-full lay people, is to provide helpful information about what religious freedom means - both intellectually and ethically. We will learn about places where persecution is occurring. In a few cases, we will hear directly from those who have experienced this oppression. We will discuss the successful efforts to help governments and societies change course. Featured sessions include discussions such as: "A Christian Defense of Religious Freedom for All" and "Defending Freedom Through Faith." To register your attendance or to learn more, click below: <https://bayshorebaptistchurch.com/latest-news/religious-freedom-event/>

CBF Global Missions

The CBF Offering for Global Missions is intentionally intergenerational. The cardboard banks in the lobby and sanctuary are a great way for the entire family to engage. Take a bank and return it to Bayshore on or before Christmas Eve. As is our tradition, our Christmas Eve offering will go to CBF Global Missions, which 100% supports our 50 Field Personnel (Missionaries) presence in the field.

