

ALKI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve



*We are a church where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary,
and where together, we grow a just and peaceful world.*

Alki UCC Advent 2021 — A time of celebration, singing, worship and hope!

Gathering Music David Duvall, Guest Accompanist

Lighting of the Christ Candle Rev. Louis J. Mitchell

Congregational Response O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v 1)

O Come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!

(A moment of silent reflection)

Call to Worship Joe M

First Carol *What Child is This?* #148 NCH

First Reading **Isaiah 9:6-7** (NRSV) Vicky S

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.
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.

Anthem ***Rise up Shepherd*** Spiritual/arr. David Duvall
David with the Alki UCC Choir

Second Reading **Luke 2:1-7** (The Message) Verona R

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.

Second Carol ***In the Bleak Midwinter*** #128 NCH

Third Reading **Luke 2:8-20** (The Message) Kim B

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.

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!

Third Carol ***The First Noel*** #139 NCH

Homily **Rev. Louis**

Offering and Invitation

Anthem ***Cantique De Noel*** Joe Mitter, soloist
Lyrics by Placide Cappeau / Music by Adolphe Adam

Prayer of Dedication (unison):

**God, you have given us your greatest gift,
your very presence come to earth to live with us and in us.**

**As you have given to us,
so now we give for the sake of a world in need.**

**May this offering help bring light to those who still hunger for bread, hope, love, justice and peace.
Amen.**

Lighting of Candles

Silent Night

Joy to the World!

Benediction

Postlude

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Alki UCC Sunday worship is recorded for posting on YouTube.

*Thanks to our ushers/greeters:
Julia & Rod Peeler
Kristin Michael and Russ Thornock*