

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO



CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00 PM 12.24.20 - TRADITIONAL SERVICE WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR

625 Hamilton, Palo Alto CA | 650.323.6167 | @firstpaloalto
firstpaloalto.com | firstchurchchristmas.org

Organ Prelude Meditation

Diane Pratt Keller, Organist

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol

Gerald Near

Christmas in Sicily

Pietro Yon

In dulci jubilo

J.S. Bach

Il Est Né, le Divin Enfant

Dale Wood

Introit

And the Glory of the Lord from the Messiah

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)

Welcome

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Processional Carol

Joy to the World

Arr. Michael Burkhard - Organ, Brass Quintet & Timpani

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry 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 earth! The Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

Call to Worship

One: This year, we dreamed of world peace.

All: We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.

One: We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.

All: We dreamed of doors open wide and a cure to disease.

One: We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.

All: For to dream is to hope; to dream is to see.

One: So make room in your being to dream yet again,

All: Of a world without fear, and a God that draws near.

One: For it is almost Christmas.

All: Love is almost here.

One: May we dream to see, and hope to believe.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Caryn Cranston & Patty Tomko

A: In the beginning, God dreamed of a beautiful world.

B: In Egypt, the Israelites dreamed of freedom.

A: In the wilderness, the people dreamed of safety.

B: In Jerusalem, the people dreamed of a Messiah.

A: In Bethlehem, the shepherds and Wise Men dreamed of a new beginning.

B: Then, several years later, Jesus walked this earth and dreams came true.

A: The sick were healed. The poor had food.

B: The forgotten and ignored were seen.

A: The children were welcomed.

B: Everyone was invited to the table, and the world has never been the same.

A: So tonight, we are those who dream.

B: Tonight, we dream the same dreams of our ancestors before us.

A: Tonight, we dream of justice and mercy, of love and kindness, of peace and hope.

B: Tonight we dream of a God that draws near to us out of unfailing love.

A: May this candle be a reminder that there will be a day when every dream will be fulfilled. And until then, we will be those who dream.

B: Let us worship Holy God.

Carol

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Late 19th Century English Carol - arr. Westenkuehler/Burkhardt
Organ, Brass & Timpani

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Anthem

In The Bleak Midwinter

Alan J. Higbee (b.1962)

Chancel Choir - Julianne Stafford, Oboe

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered 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 bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 2: 1-20

Message

This Night, We Are Those Who Dream

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Anthem

What Songs Were Sung

John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)

Mark Shaull, Baritone

We cannot tell, we do not know, what stars shone down so long ago,
When Mary birthed her own sweet son and peace and love became as one.

The Son of God, as scriptures said, was Virgin born in a tiny shed,
Where simple shepherds stood hard by while heavenly sound filled up the sky.

Now let us stand, uncovered all, before this crèche in lowly stall,
Where kings and angels dignify God's gift, His Son, in humility.

We do not know, we cannot tell, what songs were sung, what starlight fell,
Or why the holy mystery stands for so many years in so many lands.

We cannot tell, we do not know, what stars shone down so long ago,
When Mary birthed her own sweet son and peace and love became as one.

The Joy of Giving

Anthem

Before the Marvel of this Night

Carl Schalk (b.1929)

Before the marvel of his night, adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing God is love!

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Prayer

Almighty God, Just as the shepherds heard the Good News the angels brought, and responded by going to see your great gift of Jesus, may we respond to the amazing things you are doing when we bring our gifts tonight, praising and giving glory to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Offertory

People Look East

Traditional 18th Century French Carol - arr. Sondra Tucker
Organ, Brass & Timpani

Carol

The First Noel

Early 19 Century Carol - arr. Dan Forrest
Organ, Brass & Timpani

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night
Early 9th Century German Carol - arr. Arthur Frackenpohl
Brass Quintet & Organ

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, 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.

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Early 19th C. Carol - arr. Michael Burkhardt
Organ, Brass Quintet & Timpani

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."

Hail the heaven-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."

Christ, by highest heaven 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 Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."



Rev. Dr. Debra Murray, Senior Pastor
Rev. Ann Duncan, Associate Pastor
Mark Shaul, Director of Music
Diane Keller, Organist