



Calvary Baptist Church

Open to all. Closed to none.

Christmas Eve Family Worship Service

December 24, 2018

4:00 p.m.



Calvary is a Christ-like community that experiences and shares God's love. Calvary welcomes and affirms all people as children of God from every cultural and religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, economic means, race, age and gender.

Order of Worship

“...may we hold our collective breaths with the angelic host as they clutch their restless alleluias, for God is on the way: the mother is laboring, the father pacing, the stable readying, the word is waiting, the light is sliding, and the promise is breaking through...”

- Rev. Roddy Hamilton (Church of Scotland)

The + symbol invites you to rise in body or spirit.
In the spirit of worship, please silence all electronic devices.

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Joy to the World

A. Fedak

Welcome

Rev. Anne J. Scalfaro

Welcome to Christmas Eve worship at Calvary! We're glad you are here. Guests are invited to complete a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate later in the service. Cards are located in the pew racks in front of you.

+ Passing the Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Please stand and share a sign of God's peace with those around you.

+ Opening Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and Music: J. Wade. Public Domain.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Alice Horner-Nelson

Welcome to Our Brown Bag Pageant

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Pat, Steve, and Jack Hagen

One: We light the Advent Candle of Hope: a candle of watching and waiting,

All: *for we have searched and waited for our Savior to come to us.*

Sung Response:

***Light the candle of His hope, light the light of prophet's story,
Light the candle of His hope, light the light we all must hold.***

Carol

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

Text: C. Wesley. Music: R. Prichard. Public Domain.

PROPHET 1: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

PROPHET 2: God, you have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
Your people rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest.

PROPHET 3: God's people rejoice because the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

PROPHET 4: They rejoice because all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

PROPHET 5: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;

PROPHET 6: He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Creator, Prince of Peace.

PROPHET 7: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

PROPHET 8: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Prophets return to their seats.

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Babette, Freddie, Lydia and Jensen Tsao

One: We light the Advent Candle of Peace: a candle of preparation,

All: *for we have prepared our hearts to receive the Savior.*

Sung Response:

***Light the candle of His peace, light the light of angels singing,
Light the candle of His peace, light the light that shone that night.***

Carol

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,

from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”

The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Text: E. Sears. Music: R. Willis. Public Domain.

The Visitation

NARRATOR: In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin’s name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

GABRIEL: Good morning! You’re beautiful with God’s beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you.

NARRATOR: She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her...

GABRIEL: Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you:
You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.
He will be great, be called ‘Son of the Highest.’
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David;
He will rule Jacob’s house forever — no end, ever, to his kingdom.”

MARY: But how? I have no husband.

GABRIEL: The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
the power of the Highest hover over you; Therefore, the child you bring to birth
will be called Holy, Son of God.
And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone
called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible
with God.

MARY: Yes, I see it all now. I'm the Lord's servant, ready to do all that I can.
Let it be with me just as you say.

NARRATOR: And the angel left her.

Gabriel return to their seats as we begin to sing.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;

Yet in the dark street shineth the everlasting Light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Text: P. Brooks. Music: L. Redner. Public Domain.

Journey to Bethlehem

NARRATOR: 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 their 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. Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem. They asked for a room at every inn, but they were refused.

JOSEPH: Please, please. Do you have any place for us at all?

INNKEEPER 1: No! Can't you see that we're full?

JOSEPH: Please, for mercy's sake, my wife is carrying a child and needs to rest. Will you take us in?

INNKEEPER 2: There is no room. No room here, I said! Move along!

JOSEPH: We just need a place to rest. Have you any room?

INNKEEPER 3: Oh, no. These census crowds haven't let up. We have no room. But we have a stable for our animals. It's all I can offer.

NARRATOR: Mary and Joseph followed the innkeeper to the stable. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Nelson Cox, Jim and Anne Comstock

One: We light the Advent Candle of Joy: the candle of rejoicing,

All: ***for we have been blessed with the good news of God's love for all people!***

Sung Response:

***Light the candle of His joy, light the light of shepherds' coming,
Light the candle of His joy, light the light that shows the way.***

*Innkeepers, cows, reindeer, goats, donkey, Mary, and Joseph
return to their seats as we begin to sing.
Shepherds and sheep come forward.*

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;

oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new

saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:

Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Polish Carol para E. Reed. CCLI License #105571/Song #162538

Shepherds & Heavenly Hosts

NARRATOR: There were shepherds camping with their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem. 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.

ANGEL: Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, all around the world: 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 swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

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

HEAVENLY HOST stand up in place and ring their bells.

NARRATOR: As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over.

SHEPHERDS: Let's go to Bethlehem! They said this is all for us! Let's go and see!

SHEEP: Baaaaa!

NARRATOR: 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!

Sheep, shepherds, and angel return to their seats as we begin to sing.

+ Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

French Carol. Public Domain.

Lighting the Candle of Love

Jack and Mary Hulst, Doug, Connie and Jack Hulst,
Steve, Robyn, Maddie, Allie and Duncan Hulst.

One: We light the Advent Candle of Love: the candle of beholding and believing,

All: *for we have experienced the mighty power and love of God in our lives.*

Sung Response:

***Light the candle of His love, light the light of Bethlehem's stable,
Light the candle of His love, light the light by which we see.***

Wise Ones Visit Jesus

NARRATOR : After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East.

FIRST KING: Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews?

SECOND KING: We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth.

THIRD KING: We're on pilgrimage to worship him.

NARRATOR: When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together:

HEROD: You, priest! Tell me. Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?

PRIEST: In Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plain and simple for all to read:
It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land, no longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.

NARRATOR: Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East.

HEROD: All I want, all I can think about, is finding this child so that I can pay him the honor due to him. Can you help me find him?

FIRST KING: The star we have been following has stopped and stayed.

SECOND KING: We believe that we are in the right place at the right time.

THIRD KING: And we have brought the gifts due to a king.

HEROD: Splendid. Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship.

Herod and Priest return to their seats as we begin to sing

Carol

We Three Kings

*We three Kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Words and Music: J. Hopkins. Public Domain.

NARRATOR: The Wise Ones followed the Star to the place where Jesus was. They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. They presented the child, Jesus, with gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh. In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

Three Kings and Holy Family return to their seats as we begin to sing.

We Three Kings Chorus Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light, star of royal beauty bright

Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Christmas Reflection

Rev. Anne J. Scalfaro

Offertory

Child of Peace and Love

Calvary Choir

Thank you for your seasonal offering tonight! Calvary is a congregation-supported church. Your offerings make all of Calvary's ministries possible, including this worship service. To give a special gift tonight, you may use one of the Christmas offering envelopes in the pew rack to give cash or check (made out to Calvary Baptist Church) or you may give via your smart phone by texting open2all to 77977. Your generosity inspires and uplifts lives.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Morgan C. Fletcher

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Christmas Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5

Rev. Alice Horner-Nelson

Lighting the Christ Candle

Chuck, Beverly, Jacob and Sara Goertz,
Jayson, Anna, Charlee and Lydia Barrough

One: The light shines in the darkness,

All: and the darkness did not overcome it.

Sung Response:

Light the candle of His birth, Advent's promise now fulfilling,

Light the candle of His birth, light the light of Christmas Eve.

Sharing the Light of Christ

Rev. Anne J. Scalfaro

Candle lighters: Lucy Crile, Matt Mansfield

The sharing of light symbolizes the coming of Christ's light to a dark world.

The candle lighters include those members who were baptized in 2018. At their baptism, they received a candle symbolizing their call to be the "Light of the World."

Tonight they share that light with us.

Please tilt your UN-lit candle to receive the light from an upright lighted candle and share the light down each pew. Hold your lit candle for the singing of “Silent Night,” the benediction, and “Joy to the World!”

Carol

Silent Night, Holy 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.

Glory streams from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

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.

Text: J. Mohr. Music: F. Gruben. Public Domain.

Benediction

Rev. Anne J. Scalfaro

+ Carol

Joy to the World

(all stand)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;

Let every 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!

(hold candle high)

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ;

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

(lights come on)

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.*

Text: I. Watts. Music: G. Handel. Public Domain.

Postlude

God Rest You Merry

W. Held



Merry Christmas!

Monday, December 24

11:00 p.m. – Candlelight & Communion Christmas Eve Worship Service

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, December 25: office closed

Wednesday, December 26: 9:00 am- 1:00 pm

Thursday, December 27: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, January 1: Office Closed

Sunday, December 30

No Children or Youth Church School Class; Adult Classes May Meet If They Wish

10:30 a.m. – Worship

5:00 pm – The Threshold – Taizé Service (Chapel)



Rev. Anne J. Scalfaro, Senior Pastor
ascalfaro@calvarydenver.org

Rev. Morgan C. Fletcher, Pastor
mfletcher@calvarydenver.org

Rev. Alice Horner-Nelson, Pastor
ahornernelson@calvarydenver.org

Rev. Mary Hulst, Pastoral Associate & Pastor Emerita
revmhulst@gmail.com

Dr. David Farwig, Director of Music
dfarwig@calvarydenver.org

Denise Lanning, Organist

Angela Leonard, Children's Ministry Coordinator
aleonard@calvarydenver.org

Becky Porter, Nursery Coordinator
bporter@calvarydenver.org

Lori Grohskopf, Administrative & Operations Coordinator
lgrohskopf@calvarydenver.org

Luwan Jones, Accountant
ljones@calvarydenver.org

Owen Honeycutt, Set-up & Security