Wellesley Village Church

Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2021
4:00 PM
Welcome to Worship on This Holy and Exciting Night!

Prepare to Worship the newborn King!
To help us tell the story, you will need some props available on the tables at the back and front of the sanctuary. Please take a bag and decorate/wear a crown or halo and make sure you have a star, which can be found at the ends of the pews.

We Welcome All
We extend a welcome as broad as the outstretched arms of God, who calls us together to pray, sing, and rejoice in God’s glorious presence.

This service is for families and especially for children. Your wiggles, giggles, messes, and cries. If you need a quieter, child-centered space in which to be together, the Family Worship Room, located just outside the sanctuary, is open for your use. There is not a childcare attendant.

Dear Christmas Eve worshippers,
Lowly shepherds, worldly travelers, heavenly angels, and a young girl with her betrothed were among those who first experienced the marvel and mystery of God born among us. It’s a reminder that God desires to be at home among ordinary people, and often calls the most unlikely together. With gratitude for the story of the first Christmas, we extend to you this Christmas Eve a welcome as broad as the outstretched arms of God.

If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will return again and again to experience more of life together here. Wellesley Village Church is a holy place to be, belong, and become, and we would love to share the journey of life in faith with you.

Tonight, may this sanctuary be a holy place for you. Wherever you are on the journey of life and faith, may you experience the profound love of God made known in Emmanuel.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas!

~ Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter, Sr. Pastor, on behalf of the members and staff of Wellesley Village Church
O Come Let Us Adore Him!

*Please stand as you are able.

Prelude
Christmas Medley
Kristjon Imperio

Introit
“Will We Know Him?”
Don Besig
Youth Choir
Dr. Kevin McDonald, Interim Director of Music

Welcome
Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter and Rev. Diane Seaborn

One: Come, into this sacred place, into this sacred night,
into this sacred story!
All: O come, let us adore him!

One: All Advent long, we have waited for hope,
All: And hope has come in a tiny baby!

One: All Advent long, we have waited for peace,
All: And the Prince of Peace has been born!

One: All Advent long, we have waited for joy,
All: And the angels now proclaim good news of great joy!

One: Our waiting is over; Christ has been born!
All: O come, let us adore him!

*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.

Refrain: 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,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest. Refrain
PRAYER OF INVOCATION

YOUTH CHOIR  “Nativity Carol”  Francis Patrick O’Brien

“LISTEN TO CHRISTMAS”
Adapted from “Listen to Christmas,” by Judy Gattis Smith.
Produced by special arrangement with Contemporary Drama Service.

Please remain seated for all hymns during the pageant.

INTRODUCTION — Gabriel Comes to Mary  Luke 1:26-38

SCENE 1 — Shepherds on the Hillside  Luke 2:1-14

CAROL  “The First Nowell”

The first Nowell 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.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
      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. Refrain

SCENE 2 — The Manger  Luke 2:15-19

CAROL  “Away in a Manger”

Away in the manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
SCENE 3 – The Wise Men  MATTHEW 2:1-12

CAROL “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain: 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. Refrain

CONCLUSION

CAROL REPRISE “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*OFFERING OUR GIFTS

During the carol, please bring your gifts forward to the manger at the front of the church.
Financial gifts given directly to the church support the many ministries here.
Checks may be made to Wellesley Congregational Church.
You may also donate online at www.wellesleyvillagechurch.org;
use the link found in your enews; or scan this QR code.

Thank you for your generosity.
*CAROL  “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”*

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; With the angel host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born 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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

*CAROL  “Silent 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,
Glories 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, loves 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

One: Because we have seen and heard and received the gift of the Christ Child,
All: We go in Hope.

One: Because Christ comes to nurture and bless each one of us,
All: We go in Peace.

One: Because God’s glory reigns in our hearts this night,
All: We go in Joy.

One: Because God’s love is born into the world once again,
All: We go in Love.

One: Because we have seen and heard and received the gift of the Christ Child,
All: We go in Christ.

One: And Christ goes with us.

*CAROL “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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.

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.

*POSTLUDE

One: Go in Peace. Merry Christmas!

†††

Join us again for worship!

Tonight, candlelight services @ 8pm & 10pm; Dec. 26th, worship at 10am.
Beginning January 2nd, Family Life programming begins
and we will worship together at 10am.
Visit our website for information on our faith formation wellesleyvillagechurch.org.
CAST LIST

Mary - Madelyn VanDahm
Joseph - Nate Garrison
King Herod - TJ Reohr
Gabriel - Alexa Conway
Angel 1 - Addison Steere
Angel 2 - Josie Leeds
Sheep - Kate Forker
Cow - Georgia Maher
Donkey - Taryn Reohr
Dove - Isabelle Reohr
Wolf - Caitlyn Steere
Manger Shepherd 1 - Christian Keiper
Manger Shepherd 2 - Jason Keiper
3 Kings -
Poppy Maher
Emerson Gilbert
Owens Gilbert

Astrologer - Meena Gopal
Angels -
Serena Maher
Dakota Maher
Ella MacFarlane
Shepherds -
Aaron Moreta
Drew Forker
Will Garrison
Alexander Zinggler
Parker MacFarlane
Singers -
Youth Choir

Narrator - Dr. Kevin McDonald
Pianist - Kristjon Imperio

Lay Leadership
Cynthia Sibold ~ Moderator, John Snyder ~ Vice Moderator, Leif Hille ~ Immediate Past Moderator
The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter ~ Sr. Pastor sarah@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Associate Pastors
The Rev. Pam Emslie, Youth
pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Diane Seaborn, Congregational Care
diane@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Pastoral Residents
Rev. Bob Feeny, 3rd year
bob@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Rev. Megan Berkowitz, 1st year
megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Ministry Directors
Michaela McDonald – Children’s Ministry
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Dr. Kevin McDonald – Director of Youth Music, Interim
Director of Music, Director of Sanctuary Choir
kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Ed Broms – Associate Music Director
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Kristjon Imperio – Organist &
Handbell Choir Director
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