



MCLEAN
PRESBYTERIAN

*Grace changes
everything*



6:00PM & 8:00PM SANCTUARY

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

We exist to glorify and enjoy God by making disciples who make a difference through grace-filled worship, community, and mission.

MCLEAN.CAPITALPRES.ORG
703.821.0800

Welcome to our home for Christmas

What are you expecting this Christmas? That gift from your wishlist, a picture-perfect celebration, meaningful time with family? Or, perhaps you find yourself filled with darker expectations—sadness, loneliness, or fear.

This season is filled with expectations for ourselves, for those around us, and for the traditions and gatherings we hold so dear. But underneath all of the pressures and the fears, Christmas awakens in us even deeper expectations: hope, freedom, peace. Hope for our daily lives, freedom to live without crushing stress and pressure, peace with those around us and in every corner of this aching planet.

Tonight, may you discover that everything you truly want for Christmas—and for all of life—is yours. True joy, hope, freedom, and peace are found in the baby that was born to a poor, young virgin, in a dirty manger. The baby who, beyond all our expectations, gives us abundant life, full and free.

Thank you for spending Christmas with us. It's a joy to have you in our home for the holiday.

In his grace,

McLean Presbyterian Church

P.S. You're invited to lunch! We're hosting our next Newcomer Lunch on Sunday, Jan. 21. Share lunch with our pastors, staff, and other newcomers. Details at mcleanpres.org/lunch.

Childcare is provided for ages 0-Pre-K during tonight's 6pm service (childcare is not provided during our 8pm service).

New to our church this evening?

Visit the McLean Room for hot drinks, Christmas cookies, and friendly conversation. You're also invited to pick up a special gift.

Each Sunday, we gather for worship at 9am, 10:45am & 5:15pm. No matter where you are in sorting through what you believe about Jesus, the Bible, and Christianity, you're welcome to explore with us.

Service of Divine Worship

December 24, 2023 | 6:00pm & 8:00pm

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & CALL TO WORSHIP

JOHN 1:1-5, 14

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

People: All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Leader: In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

WELCOME & INVOCATION

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 heav'n above!
Glory to God in the highest! **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Words Attr. to J.F. Wade, 1751, Tr. by F. Oakeley, 1841; Music by J.F. Wade; CCLI License #152421

FIRST READING: THE FALL OF MAN AND THE FIRST PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

GENESIS 3:8-15

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

CAROL

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill all the world with heaven's peace. **Refrain 2x**

Words & Music by Latin hymn tr. by J.M. Neale, 1851, alt, 1961; Music VENI EMMANUEL, Arr. © 2015 Jeff Vogan; CCLI License #152421

SECOND READING: THE SAVIOR'S KINGDOM BRINGS HOPE THROUGH RESTORATION

FROM ISAIAH 7 AND 9

Leader: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

People: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL

HE WHO IS MIGHTY

Oh, the mercy our God has shown to those who sit in death's shadow.
The sun on high pierced the night; born was the Cornerstone.
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born.

**Chorus: He who is mighty has done a great thing; taken on flesh, conquered death's sting,
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame. Holy is his name.**

Oh, the freedom our Savior won; the yoke of sin has been broken.
Once a slave, now by grace no more condemnation.
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born. **Chorus**

Holy is his name.

*Bridge: Now my soul magnifies the Lord. I rejoice in the God who saves.
I will trust his unfailing love. I will sing his praises all my days. (repeat)* **Chorus 2x**

Holy is his name. Holy is his name.

Words and music by R. Elliott and K. DeGraide, Arr. by J. Brownlee, © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI), Sovereign Grace Music, a division of Sovereign Grace Ministries.

THIRD READING: THE SAVIOR WILL BE FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN

LUKE 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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 ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

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.

Words St. 1, 4 by C. Wesley, 1744, St. 2-3 by M.E. Hunt; Music HYFRYDOL by F.H. Pritchard, 1855; Arr. © Jeff Vogan 2015; CCLI License #152421

FOURTH READING: THE SAVIOR WILL PROVIDE THE WAY TO PEACE WITH GOD

MATTHEW 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

CAROL

EMMANUEL (GLORY IN THE HIGHEST)

The Light of Life descended to the world he made. The ageless Rock of Ages in a manger laid.
Behold the Word that bore our flesh. The heart of God inside an infant’s chest.

The Infinite incarnate in a virgin’s hands. The radiance of the Father in the Son of Man.
Behold the peace that pierced the night. The hope of nations in a baby’s cry.

**Chorus 1: Emmanuel, glory in the highest. Emmanuel, Heaven here beside us.
God himself, with us now to dwell, Emmanuel.**

The sinless King of Heaven crowned with guilt and shame.
The Cornerstone was fastened to a wooden frame.
Behold Lamb that crushed our curse and died to pay the price of our rebirth. **Chorus 1**

*Bridge: Light in darkness, might for meekness. All the glory be to Jesus.
Love has sought us, grace has reached us. All the glory be to Jesus. (Repeat)* **Chorus 1**

**Chorus 2: Glory in the highest. Emmanuel, Heaven here beside us.
God himself, with us now to dwell, God himself, with us now to dwell,
God himself, with us now to dwell, Emmanuel.**

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FIFTH READING: THE PROMISED SAVIOR IS BORN

LUKE 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears, shall pierce him through; the cross be born for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Traditional English Carol, Adapt. by W.C. Dix; Melody GREENSLEEVES; Arr. © 2010 Jeff Vogan; CCLI License #152421

SIXTH READING: THE ANGEL ANNOUNCES THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR

LUKE 2:8-14

Leader: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

People: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

CAROL

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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 host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. **Refrain**

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n 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. **Refrain**

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

AN IRISH CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Christmas Eve Choir

Now may the fragrance of his peace soar through your heart like the dove released.
Hide in his wings, O weary, distant soul, he'll guide your spirit home.

And may his love poured from on high flow to the depths of your deepest sigh.
O come and drink from the only living stream and on his shoulder lean.

And may the hope that will not deceive through every pain, bring eternal ease.
There is no night that can steal the promises his coming brings to us.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night.
Glory to God and peace to all, now and forevermore.

So may his joy rush over you, delight in the path he has called you to.
May all your steps walk in heaven's endless light beyond this Christmas night.

Words and music by Keith and Kristen Getty. Thank You Music 2010.

SERMON

GOD WITH US

6. The Manger

CAROL

BEHOLD THE SAVIOR

Oh, what innocence sleeping in a manger under dreamless skies.
See the newborn King trading ev'ry glory for a silent night.
Here is the promise we have waited for. He will not leave us in the dark.

Chorus: He will bear our weight. He will wear our shame.

Come, lift him high. Behold the Savior.

Jesus Christ, law of love and light.

Come, lift him high. Behold the Savior.

Veiled deity, praise of ev'ry angel, shepherds bowing low.
Sweet humility, mercy as a baby, God in flesh and bone.
Here is the promise we have waited for. He will not leave us in the dark. **Chorus**

Here is the promise we have waited for. He will not leave us in the dark.
He is the promise we have waited for. The cry of ev'ry searching heart. **Chorus**

Come, lift him high. Behold the Savior.

Come, lift him high. Behold the Savior.

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SEVENTH READING: THE SAVIOR WILL COME AGAIN

REVELATION 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

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!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly 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.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

CCLI Song #27862; Words by F.X. Gruber, J. Mohr; Music by J.F. Young; CCLI License #152421

BENEDICTION

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

Leader: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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