

January 1, 2023

Christmas Sunday

11 a.m.

PRELUDE

Mary Had a Baby

arr. Noel Rawsthorne

CHORAL INTROIT

Carols Around

Carl Nygard

INVITATION to WORSHIP

*OPENING CAROL

The First Nowell (vs. 1 & 2)

#139

**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.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born in a manger, Emmanuel.**

**They looked above 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.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born in a manger, Emmanuel.**

*OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God for whom calendars and clocks cannot confine, we come to You on this first day of 2023. Meet us as we cross the threshold into this year. We give thanks for moments of grace this last year.

Pause to name one moment from 2022 that left a smile lingering on your face.

We give thanks for new ideas and “Aha” moments.

Pause to name an experience where you learned something new last year.

We pray that You would hold the pains from the past we are still processing.

Pause to recognize what is unresolved, leftover and lingering from 2022.

God, You are our help in ages past and our hope for this year to come. Thank you for this day and this time to begin 2023 centered in our relationship with You and one another. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (vs. 1 & 4)

#131

**It came upon the 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 all, great news of joy we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years come round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling.
And all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

LIGHTING the KWANZAA SEVENTH CANDLE of IMANI (FAITH)

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-9

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: ² a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³ a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; ⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; ⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.

SERMON

What Time is It?

ANTHEM

Shepherds, Hurry

K. Lee Scott

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.

*CLOSING HYMN

Who Would Think That What was Needed

#153

**Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.**

**Shepherds watch and sages wonder, monarchs scorn and angels sing;
Such a place as none would reckon, hosts a holy helpless thing;
Stabled beasts and passing strangers watch a baby laid in hay.
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.**

**Centuries of skills and science span the past from which we move,
Yet experience questions whether with such progress we improve.
In our search for sense and meaning, lest our hopes and humors fray,
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE