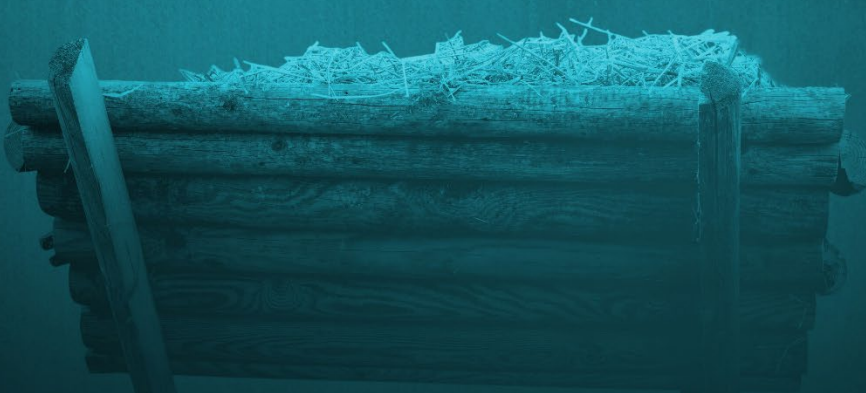


ADVENT VESPERS

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SONG

To Light
the Way



December 3, 2023 | 5:00 pm

Light of the world, You loose the bonds of night.

Once we walked in darkness, now bursts forth Your light.

Christ is your glory, come to light the way.

— from *Light of the World* by Karen Marroli —

ADVENT VESPERS

Advent Vespers provides worshippers peace and separation from the frantic pace of the world. Vespers is a unique expression of worship with quiet centering guided by readings and music to help us see that Christ is our glory who comes to light the way.

GATHERING

Savior of the Nations, Come

Cathy Moglebust

Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

TELLING A STORY

O Come, Holy Light

Brian Hanson

O come, holy Light, with longing hearts we wait. O quickly come with radiance bright, and shine: illuminate! Come Prince of Peace, and reign, and justice will prevail. Your sovereign rule will heal all pain. Your kingdom will not fail. O come, Redeemer, come, and end our bitter night. Come rescue us and bring us home to dwell with You in light. O come, holy Light, restore, renew, set free. O bring salvation, make all things right, and shine eternally!

L: Let us pray with eyes wide open this our Advent song:

P: **Come, O come, Lord Jesus, like the morning sun! Cast Your light across our darkness; make our hearts Your home. Amen.**

THE PART THAT JESUS ILLUMINATES

Light of the World

Karen Marrolli

Light of the world, You loose the bonds of night. Once we walked in darkness, now bursts forth Your light. Christ is Your glory, come to light the way. Teach us how to follow. Light of our paths, You walk with us in strife. Where conflict darkens, bring the light of life. Christ, in Your mercy, come to show us love. Teach us how to follow! We must be Your hands, lent to heal and bless. We must be Your light, rending wide the darkness. Christ, in Your image, we will greet the world; this is how we follow. Light of our days, we feel Your dawning call. Send us forth to serve and bring Your light to all! Christ, You have claimed us; You have made us one. We will always follow! Christ, You have claimed us; You have made us one. We will always follow!

L: Let us pray with eyes wide open this our Advent song:

P: Come, O come, Lord Jesus, like the morning sun! Cast Your light across our darkness; make our hearts Your home. Amen.

MESSIAH BRINGS WORLDWIDE PEACE

Light Beyond Shadow

Dan Forrest

Light beyond shadow, joy beyond tears, love that is greater when darkest our fears; Deeper the Peace when the storm is around, nearer the Hope to the lost who is found. Light of the world, ever shining. Hope in our pain and our dying, ever shining. In darkness, there is Light in our crying. There is Love in the noise of life imparting. Peace that passes understanding.

L: Let us pray with eyes wide open this our Advent song:

P: Come, O come, Lord Jesus, like the morning sun! Cast Your light across our darkness; make our hearts Your home. Amen.

LORD OF OUR HEART

To Thee My Heart I Offer

Elaine Hagenberg

To Thee my heart I offer, Oh Christ-child sweet and dear; upon Thy love relying, be Thou ever near. Oh, take my heart and give me Thine and may it be forever mine, oh Jesus, holy, undefiled, My Savior meek and mild. What brought Thee to the manger, Oh Christ-child sweet and dear? Thy love for me a stranger, be Thou ever near, Oh Lord how great Thy perfect Love, that reaches from the heavens above. Thy love for us, be sin defiled, that made Thee, God, a child. Let me be Thine forever, oh Christ-child sweet and dear; uphold me with Thy mercy, be Thou ever near. Thy hand bestows Thy gifts to me and all I have, I offer Thee! My heart, my soul, and all I own; Let these be Thine alone.

Long the Days of Waiting

Mark Shepperd

Long the days of waiting, longer still the nights; dark, the dead of winter, yearning for the light. Watching for the sunrise, reaching for the dawn, let us pray with eyes wide open this our Advent song: Come, O come, Lord Jesus, like the morning sun! Cast Your light across our darkness; make our hearts Your home.

WAIT A LITTLE LONGER

O Come, Emmanuel

Jason Krug

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

GOING FORTH

Worshipers follow the torch bearer into a waiting world.

ADVENT VESPERS LEADERS AND MUSICIANS

Dr. Joe Galyon, *Director of Worship and Arts*

Brynn Mitchell, *Torch Bearer*

Peyton Voline, *Worship Technology Coordinator*

Gordon Stokely, *Presentation Operator* Mark Hoover, *Livestream*

SPEAKERS

Michelle Day

Kirk Page

TRINITY RINGERS

Jennifer Brown
Carrie Feldmeyer
Chris Krasen

Angie Philpott
Rachel Travis

Rebekah Travis
Evanne Volz

COVENANT CHOIR

SOPRANO I

Kristin Anderson
Susan Varghese
Evanne Volz

SOPRANO II

Sue Brooks
Emma Galyon
Jan Kelly
Ruth Ann Parchman
Melissa Starkweather
Susan Tate
Barbara Wenner

ALTO I

Starla Clark
Gayley Hautzenroeder
Karolyn Johnsen
Sarah Smith
Tracey Stokely

ALTO II

Jennifer Brown
Sandy King
Angie Philpott
Mary Jane Sper

TENOR

David Anderson
Steve Douglas
Dan Millisor
Chris Philpott
David Scheppeler

BASS

Bud Banks
Andy Brooks
Tom Burdin
Mark Combs
Thom Demuth

COVENANT RINGERS

Andrea Bell
Laura Conner
Rachel Edward
Robin Forsthoefel
Katie Loew

Amy Moertle
Angie Philpott
Adam Risk
Barbara Risk
Juli Schultz

Jane Sheetz
Tricia Sies
Vicki Stockmann
Evanne Volz
Stephanie Volz

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Kathy Raitchel, *piano*
Vincent Phelan, *violin*
Belinda Burge, *violin*
Elizabeth Phelan, *viola*
Gustavo Carpinteyro-Lara, *cello*
Anna Stapleton, *percussion*

REFERENCES

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Grieve, David. 2015. "Advent Good Wishes" from *Waiting on the Word: A poem a day for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany*. Canterbury Press Norwich. www.rights@hymnsam.co.uk. Used with permission.

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CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2023 | 5:00 p.m.

Children and Carols

Experience Christmas through the eyes of a child as our forty-voice combined children's choir and handbell choirs begin the evening with a musical presentation for Christmas under the leadership of Mr. David Anderson.

December 24, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.

Contemporary Candlelight

Celebrate Christmas with carols and candlelight. The evening continues with a Christmas meditation from Rev. Meshach Kanyion and joyful music led by the Praise Band.

December 24, 2023 | 9:00 p.m.

Traditional Candlelight

Welcome Christmas with a Festival of Lessons and Carols and candlelight. The service includes a Christmas meditation from Rev. Meshach Kanyion and inspiring music from Covenant Ringers and Covenant Choir under the direction of Dr. Joe Galyon.

Church of the SAVIOUR 
UNITED METHODIST

8005 Pfeiffer Road | Cincinnati, OH 45242 | 513.791.3142