**Wednesday, December 24, 2020**

Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church

Christmas Eve Service

The Rev. Barbara DaCosta, Pastor

**Choral Introit** OLCBC Choir (Recorded)

**Organ and Piano Prelude** *"O Holy Night”"* Jamie Ellison - Soloist

**Responsive Call To Worship** Jim Ellison & Pastor Barbara

The Prophet Isaiah said: 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.

**People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

The Priest Zechariah said before John’s birth: By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness, to guide our feet into the way of peace**.**

**People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

The Evangelist John said: What has come into being in him was life and the life is the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

God is with us. God is coming into our lives in a new way. The birth of the Christ-child is the renewal of hope; a reminder that Christ will come again. Keep watch for the light; it is drawing near.

***ALL: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

**Gathering Hymn:** *“O Come All Ye Faithful”* V1. & 2 (See Insert for lyrics)

**The Christ Candle (S***ee insert)*Jim Ellison

**Carol** *“O Come All Ye Faithful” V.3*

**Invocation**

Our glorious God, you sent your Son into our world to show us who you are. In Christ we find love, joy, peace and hope; we are grateful for this reflection of you. May we encounter the Christ child in this time of worship, and in doing so, experience more of you, our holy Creator God. We pray in our Savior’s name. **Amen.**

**Special Music** *“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”*

OLCBC Trio – Mary Ackroyd, Marge Jones & Joanne Wales

**The Christmas Prayer**

**Prayer Response**  *“O Come Let Us Adore Him”*

*V1. O Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. V2. We’ll praise His name forever.*

**The Christmas Story**

**First Lesson** Luke 1:26-38 Julie Ellison

THE MESSAGE OF THE ANGEL

**Carol**  “*O Little Town of Bethlehem”* V.1 & 2

**Second Lesson** Luke 1:39-45 Jamie Ellison

GOOD NEWS FOR TWO WOMEN

**Carol**  *“Mary Did You Know?”* V.1 & 2

**Third Lesson** Luke 1:46-56 Marge Jones

MARY’S HYMN OF PRAISE

**Special Music** *“Ding Dong Merrily On High” OLCBC Trio*

**Fourth Lesson** Matthew 1:18-25 Jim Ellison

JOSEPH’S DREAM

**Carol** “*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”* V.1

**Fifth Lesson** Luke 2:1-7 Joanne Wales

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

**Carol**  *“Away In The Manger” V.1 & 2*

**Sixth Lesson** Luke 2:8-20 Pastor Barbara

The Shepherds and the Angels

**Carol**  *“What Child is This?” V. 1 &.2*

**Christmas Devotional** Pastor Barbara

**Lighting of the Candles** Jim Ellison

**Carol** *“Joy to the Word” V. 1*

**Carol**  *“Silent Night” V.1*

**\*Benediction** (from Isaiah 60) Pastor Barbara

Arise, shine, for your light has come. So lift up your eyes and look around. May you see and be radiant. May your heart thrill and rejoice at the abundance of love poured upon you through God’s gift of Jesus. **Amen.**

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To

know

His as

He is

today, not

as a manger –

babe, but as the

One who lived and

died and lives

again, enthroned and

reigning in our hearts.

To sense the need of those

who celebrate a day and nothing

more—because to them, He slumbers

yet at Bethlehem! To love Him and His

Word above all else, and lovingly

wish to tell others everywhere

the tidings of redemption

this to us is

Christmas!

Wishing you and those you hold dear a very Blessed Christmas!

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**CRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020**

**OAK LAWN COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**229 Wilbur Avenue, Cranston, RI 02921-1016**

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** THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**RESPONSIVE LITANY**

Tonight we gather with joyful hearts to receive God’s greatest gift.

**Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

Tonight we hear again the good news that was given for all people.

**Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

Tonight we join in steadfast wonder at God’s amazing love.

**Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

Tonight we welcome the Savior whose birth has forever changed our lives.

**Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**UNISON ADVENT PRAYER**

Gracious Lord, our Advent journey has culminated in this night. As we celebrate the coming of Christ, open our eyes to see your wonder, open our hearts to know your joy, and open our lips to tell of your glory. For to us a Child has been born, to us a Savior has been given. We pray this in the name of Christ, our newborn King. **Amen.**

**Scripture Readings**

**LUKE 1:26-38. The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**LUKE 1:39-45. Mary Visits Elizabeth**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

**LUKE 1:46-56. Mary’s Song of Praise**

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS CONT.**

**Matthew 1:18-25. The Birth of Jesus the Messiah**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, “which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Luke 2:1-7. The Birth of Jesus**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Luke 2:8-20. The Shepherds and the Angels**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**MUSIC LYRICS**

***“O Come All Ye Faithful”***V.1-3

V1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem; O 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.

V2. O sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, al glory in the highest; REFRAIN

V3. 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 Little Town of Bethlehem”***V.1 & 2

V1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

V2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep

Their watch of wondering love, O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King and Peace to men on earth.

***“Mary Did You Know?”***V.1 & 2

V1. Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water? Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you. REFRAIN – The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again; the lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb. Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mar did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy was heaven’ perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you’re holding is the great “I AM!”

V2. Mary did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man? Mary, did You know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you kidded your little baby, then you kissed the face of God. REFRAIN.

***“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*** V.1

V1. 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, goodwill to all, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

*“Away In The Manger”* V.1 & 2

V1. Away in a manger no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head; The stars in the sky look down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

V2. The cattle are lowing, the Baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my side til morning is nigh.

*“What Child is This?”* V. 1 & 2

*“Joy to the Word”* V. 1

*“Silent Night”* V.1