

First Reformed Church of Cary

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2017

Prelude *"A Carol"* Hand Bell Ensemble

Choral Introit *"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"* Chancel Choir

***Invitation to Worship**

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light

**Those who live in a land of deep darkness, on them has
light shown.**

For unto us a child is born.

Unto us a son is given.

And his name shall be called:

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

***Hymn #147** *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (vs1,2)

Bidding Prayer

Lord's Prayer

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5

Second Reading Isaiah 35:1-6

Choir Selection *"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"*

Third Reading Luke 1:26-35,38

Medley of Carols (seated)

#159 *"What Child is This"* (vs1,3)

#160 *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* (vs 1,2)

Fourth Reading

Luke 2: 1-14

Medley of Carols (seated)

#155 *“There’s a Song in the Air”* (vs 1,2)

#157 *“Away in a Manger”* (vs 1-3)

#176 *“We Three Kings of Orient Are”* (vs 1,5)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Unison Prayer: Tonight we rejoice and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We are grateful Jesus came to be the light of the world. Help our lives to shine each day reflecting the joy of Jesus in our hearts. Amen.

Flute Solo

“O Holy Night”

Mandy Shafer, Flautist

Fifth Reading

Mark 1:1-11

*Hymn #165 *“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”*

A Christmas Meditation

A Christmas Litany

The story of Christ’s birth never gets old. We savor the beautiful scriptures, We remember how the Messiah arrived as a baby in Bethlehem.

We sing songs to echo the joy of the angels.

We know Christ was born into a world darkened by sin and injustice. Even in this season of lights and joyful songs,

We will not forget that many are still lonely, poor, hungry and oppressed.

Like the angels we have good news to share. Jesus Christ has come to change our stories of hardship into testimonies of hope.

Guide us Messiah, so we may bear witness to your mercy and love. Equip us to be one with you in demonstrating love and grace.

We are grateful that the good news of this birth lives in our hearts, in our congregation, and in the world.

We rejoice in the great things God has done for us.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased.

Lighting of Candles

“Silent Night”

Bell Ensemble

Carol #154

“Silent Night”

Unison Christmas Prayer

In these quiet moments we thank you for the prophets’ hope, the angels’ song, the wondrous birth in Bethlehem. Grant us your light and peace. Illumine our lives with the wonderful tidings that a Savior has been born. Stand beside us, strengthen our spirit of faith and challenge us to move forward knowing that you are indeed Emmanuel, God with us, forever. Amen

(extinguish candles)

***Benediction**

***Response #161**

“Joy to the World”

(vs 1,4)

***Postlude**