

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

11:00 p.m.



*Edward Burne-Jones (1833-1898), "The Star of Bethlehem" painted in 1890.*

## **WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY**

Thank you for joining us for worship and fellowship today. We are blessed to have you with us and look forward to greeting you after worship.

## **INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT**

Glenview Community Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ, accepting all who believe in God without regard to race, color, age, marital status, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or physical ability. It is also a W.I.S.E. church of the United Church of Christ - welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged with respect to persons facing mental health challenges, their families, and their caregivers.

## **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS**

There are large print bulletins available each Sunday. If you need one, ask an usher.

## **HEARING DEVICES**

Hearing devices are available for your use. They are located in the Narthex. If you need assistance in locating them, please see an usher who will be able to assist you.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Ministers	Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Rev. Abigail Lutz
Organist	Gary Wendt
Chancel Choir	Guillermo Muñoz Küster
Musicians	Joyful Ringers; Brass Quartet: David Gauger, David Moore, trumpet; Alex Laskey, Horn; Corey Sansolo, Trombone; Serena Voltz, Tuba
Lector	Allan Ruter
Ushers	Beryl Bills, Doug Berg, Ginny Hotaling, Laura O'Mera, George Silca, Diane Silca
Technical Engineer	Barry Nelson
Offering Steward	Marvin Lutz

## **MODERATOR**

Susan Johns

*[moderator@gccucc.org](mailto:moderator@gccucc.org)*

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11:00 p.m.

## GATHER

### PRELUDE

*Song of the Manger*  
*Do You Hear What I Hear?*  
*Mary Had a Baby*

arr. Arnold Sherman  
arr. Joel Raney  
arr. Ron Mallory

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #133** *O Come All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

### \*GREETING

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Luke 2:10-15*

Minister: And the angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy which shall be for all people."

**All: For to us is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

Minister: "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, and good will to all!**

**\*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** *from Isaiah 9:6*

Voice 1: God of hope, Prince of Peace, you speak peace into the world in the Way of the Christ Child.

Voice 2: Help us embody your peace and live as peacemakers that we may called children of God.

**All: God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come.**

Voice 3: We light this candle of peace.

**\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER**

*Please rise as able and greet one another in whatever way you are comfortable and share God's peace.*

**FIRST READING** *Luke 2:1-12*

**\*CAROL #119** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

**SECOND READING** *Luke 2:13-20*

**ANTHEM** *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*

arr. Carolyn Jennings

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing,  
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "io, io, io" by priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

*\*The star indicates when to stand as able>*

Pray you, dutifully prime your Matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime your Evetime Song, ye singers:  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

**THIRD READING**    *John 1:1-14, 16*

**ANTHEM**                      *African Noel*

arr. André Thomas

Sing Noel, sing we all Noel!

O come, ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer.  
The King of kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem.  
Sing Noel!

**SERMON**                      *Gold's Love With Us*

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo

**\*CAROL #113**                      *Angels We Have Heard On High*

GLORIA

**THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us pray.

**All: Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true Light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that Light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

*After each petition, the minister will say: Jesus, our Savior,*

*Response: Hear our prayer.*

**THE 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 against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**        *O Holy Night*

Dudley Buck

O Holy Night!

The stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees!  
Oh hear the angel voices!  
Oh night divine,  
Oh night when Christ was born!  
Oh night divine!

**\*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY**

GREENSLEEVES

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Minister: Let us pray.

All: There are so many things to be thankful for tonight, O God. We give thanks for your love made incarnate in the Christ Child of Bethlehem. We return a portion of your goodness to us in these offerings. May we who love this holy Child follow his gospel and bear his grace to a world that longs for wonder and joy. Amen.

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES AND SINGING "SILENT NIGHT"**

*"Silent Night" is perhaps the most famous Christmas carol in the world. The music was composed in 1818 by Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863), the church organist of St Nicholas Church, Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria. The original German words "Stille Nacht" were written in 1816 by Fr. Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), the priest of the same church.*

**\*CAROL "Silent Night" sung in English and German**

STILLE NACHT

1. 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.

3. Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

4. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Hirten erst kundgemacht  
Durch der Engel Halleluja,  
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:  
Christ, der Retter ist da!  
Christ, der Retter ist da!

5. 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

7. 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.

6. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht  
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,  
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'.  
Christ, in deiner Geburt!  
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

**\*CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE** *Deck the Halls - In Dulci Jubilo*

arr. Eric Robertson



# CHRISTMAS POEM

“First Coming”

He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady  
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine. He did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy he came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
He came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

*-Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007), American writer, author of A Wrinkle in Time (1962)*

# FIND YOUR **GLENVIEW** COMMUNITY **CHURCH**

1000 Elm Street  
Glenview, IL 60025  
Phone: (847) 724-2210  
website: [www.gccucc.org](http://www.gccucc.org)

## **MINISTERS**

Rev. Dr. James M. Matarazzo, Jr., Senior Minister  
Rev. Abigail Lutz, Pastoral Resident

## **PROGRAM STAFF**

Gary Wendt, Music  
Guillermo Muñoz Küster, Adult Choirs  
Katelyn Ornduff, Children's Choir  
Chris Calandra, Children's Ministry  
Meredith Estes, Youth Ministry  
Laura Dillon, GCC Nursery School  
Karen Ornduff, New To You

## **OFFICE STAFF**

Dave Aki, Director of Operations  
Julie Evans, Business Manager  
Riley Smith, Church Administrator  
Javier Avila, Custodian

## **YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Glenview Community Church is a Christian community of acceptance and welcome for all God's people. We strive to make our buildings and grounds a place of sanctuary and safety for each person who comes here. Our church community is:

Inspired by Christ,  
Enriched by Faith,  
Committed to Inclusivity.  
We serve God as advocates for Justice, Compassion, and Peace.