

## Prelude | Rhonda Carpenter & Brandon Coffey

### Call to Worship | Women's Ensemble

*By Candlelight* | Ruth Elaine Schram

There is a baby tucked in a manger, sleeping tight.  
And over the manger, there is a star that is shining bright  
In the night, showing the world the way  
To the place where He sleeps upon the hay.  
And we make our way by candlelight.

Animals share their humble abode with Him willingly,  
But they seem to be asking, "Why has He come, and who is He? Is He royalty?"  
Gently, the mother sings to the child lullabies fit for a king.  
And she softly sings by candlelight.

Flickering candles, twinkling stars shine like diamonds in midnight blue;  
Shimmering snow is reflecting their sparkle in ev'ry hue.  
There is a sense of wonder, for our faith has been renewed,  
As we see His face in this simple place by candlelight.

Over the manger, angels spread their golden wings;  
While He is presented priceless treasure and lovely things, gifts from kings.  
What could we offer, what could we bring to this baby from above?  
We will bring our love, we will bring our love.  
By candlelight, by candlelight, by candlelight, by candlelight.

### Lighting the Advent Wreath (Christ Candle)

#### Advent Litany | The McDougal Family

Leader: Tonight, we celebrate hope fulfilled in the birth of Christ.

**People: Joy to the World! The Lord has come.**

Leader: Tonight, we celebrate the promise of peace on earth.

**People: Let earth receive her King.**

Leader: Tonight, we celebrate the joy of knowing a Savior has come.

**People: Let every heart prepare him room.**

Leader: Tonight, we celebrate the love of God, through Jesus Christ.

**People: Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!**

### Words of Welcome and Christmas Greetings | Brent McDougal

#### First Lesson: Promise to Abraham (Genesis 22:15-18) | Susan Tatum

## **Anthem | Quartet**

*Did the Stars Hold Their Breath?* | Aspinall/Rouse

Did the stars hold their breath the night that You came?  
The Divine wrapped in swaddling clothes?  
Did they pause for a moment, Redeemer in flesh;  
Weep while You made Yourself known?

Oh, mystery, our God with us. By grace His Love made known.  
Oh, mystery, our God with us. Redemption to us is shown!  
Redemption to us is shown!

Did the mountains all shiver a protest of fear  
When You came and You entered our pain?  
Did the demons all tremble the night You appeared?  
Did they shrink at the sound of Your name?

Oh, mystery, our God with us. By grace His Love made known.  
Oh, mystery, our God with us. Redemption to us is shown!  
Emmanuel has come! God's only Son.  
Now by grace His Love is made known!

Oh, mystery, our God with us. By grace His Love made known.  
Oh, mystery, our God with us. Redemption to us is shown!  
Redemption to us is shown!  
Did the stars hold their breath the night You came?

## **Second Lesson: Prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7) | Brent McDougal**

### **\*Carol 83 (stanza 1)**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* | HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

## **Third Lesson: The Peaceful Kingdom (Isaiah 11:1-9) | Pam Neal**

### **Special Music | Men's Ensemble**

*See Amid the Winter's Snow* | arr. Dan Forrest

Alleluia. See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below.  
The Lamb appears, tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Hail thou ever blessed morn. O hail redemption's happy dawn.  
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

In a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,  
He, who, throned in light sublime, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Hail thou ever blessed morn. Hail redemption's happy dawn.  
Sing throughout Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sacred infant, all divine, tender love was Thine.  
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.  
Hail thou ever blessed morn. Hail redemption's happy dawn.  
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **Fourth Lesson: The Magnificat (Luke 1:26-38) | Tim Boone**

### **Special Music | Mixed Ensemble with Choir**

*This Child of Light* | Mary McDonald

See now this baby, a child so small;  
He is our Savior, Ruler of all.  
What shall we name Him, this Holy One?  
He is Jesus, God's own Son!

This Child of Light, a Holy Light,  
Has come to us on this silent night.  
Here, in the stillness, quiet, He lay.  
Love everlasting is born, is born today.

This Child of Mary, this little One;  
A gift from heaven, God's only Son.  
What can we give Him, this Child so small?  
We can give Him, give Him our all!

This Child of Light, a Holy Light,  
Has come to us on this silent night.  
Here, in the stillness, quiet, He lay.  
Love everlasting is born, is born today.  
This Child of Light.

## **Fifth Lesson: The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7) | Susan Tatum**

### **\*Carol 110 (stanzas 1 & 2)**

*Away in a Manger* | MUELLER

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

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

## **Children's Message | Susan Tatum**

### **Sixth Lesson: Shepherds and Angels (Luke 2:8-15) | Brent McDougal**

#### **\*Carol 125 (stanza 1)**

*Angels We Have Heard on High* | GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

### **Seventh Lesson: Visit of the Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12) | Pam Neal**

#### **\*Carol 151 (stanza 1)**

*We Three Kingss* | KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

### **Eighth Lesson: The Word Became Flesh (John 1:1-5,14) | Tim Boone**

#### **Solo | Jill Hobby with Drama**

*Breath of Heaven* | arr. Lloyd Larson

I have traveled many moonless nights,  
Cold and weary with a babe inside,  
And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, You have come  
And chosen me now to carry Your Son.

I am waiting in a silent prayer.  
I am frightened by the load I bear.  
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?  
Be with me now, be with me now.

Breath of Heaven, hold me together,  
Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.

Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,  
Pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy, Breath of Heaven.

Do You wonder as You watch my face,  
If a wiser one should have had my place?  
But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan.  
Help me be strong, help me be, help me.

Breath of Heaven, hold me together,  
Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,  
Pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy.

Breath of Heaven, hold me together,  
Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,  
Pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy.  
Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven.

## **Christmas Eve Homily | Brent McDougal**

**"Three Ways to Welcome the Christ Child" | Luke 2:8-20**

### **\*Candlelight Carol 134**

*Silent Night* | STILLE NACHT

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glory streams from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

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.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

### **\*Benediction | Brent McDougal**

*To keep us all as safe as possible, please remain seated  
until an usher dismisses your row.*

## **Organ Postlude | Rhonda Carpenter**

*\*Congregation is invited to stand as you are able.*

**Please deposit candles in the baskets located at the exits.**