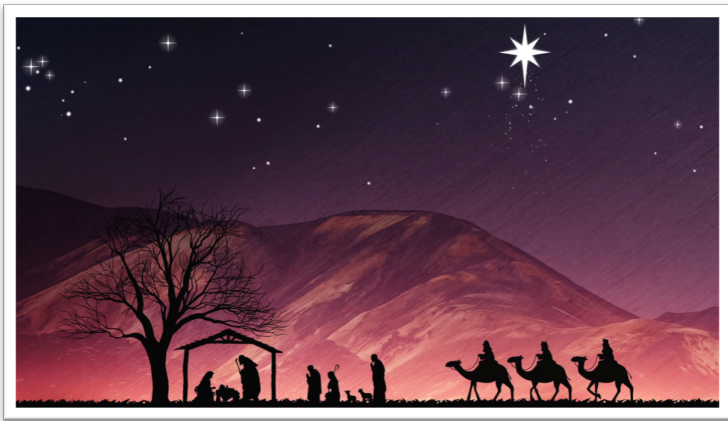


SUNDAY DECEMBER 23

*Service of Carols
and Readings*



COLLINS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

The Service of Carols and Readings

Music for reflection

David Cundy

Opening Scripture: John 1-4, 14

Simon Carey Holt

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Choir: The Word

Accompanied by Clair Cvjeticanin

The Word was with God in the beginning,
the Word was with God in the beginning;
through him we were created,
by him all things were made.

The Word was made known through the prophets,
the Word was made known through the prophets,
And though their speech was silenced,
Still their witness went on.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
the Word became flesh and lived among us,
And we beheld his glory,
Full of grace and truth.

So praise the Word, softer than silence,
and praise the Word, stronger than violence.
Rejoice that in the body
Christ the Word is known.

Words and music: John L. Bell & Graham Maule, 1987

Welcome

Simon Carey Holt

Lighting of the Advent Candle

O God, we light this candle of joy
and name again our delight in you:
the word eternal and true.
As sure as this light burns,
so we believe your eternal joy will ultimately win the day.

In the face of all that calls our faith into question,
boldly we believe, audaciously we hope,
and resolutely we pray:

*Immanuel, come and dwell with us.
Holy child, Son of God,
we look for you;
we wait for you;
our hope is in you.*

Hymn: Come, Lord Jesus, Come

*Into the darkness of this world,
Into the shadows of the night ,
Into this loveless place you came
Lightened our burdens, eased our pain
And made these hearts your home.
Into the darkness once again,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come with your love to make us whole,
Come with your light to lead us on,
Driving the darkness far from our souls,
O come, Lord Jesus, come*

*Into the longing of our souls,
Into these heavy hearts of stone,
Shine on us now your piercing light,
Order our lives and souls aright
By grace and love unknown.
Until in You our hearts unite,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come with your love to make us whole,
Come with your light to lead us on,
Driving the darkness far from our souls
O come, Lord Jesus, come*

*O Holy Child, Emmanuel,
Hope of the ages, God with us,
Visit again this broken place
Till all the earth declares your praise
And Your great mercies own.
Now let Your love be born in us,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come in Your glory, take Your place:
Jesus, the Name above all names.
We long to see you face to face,
O come, Lord Jesus, come*

Words and music: Maggi Dawn, 1993

Passing the Peace

Carolyn Francis

*May the peace of the Lord be with you
And also with you*

Hymn: Once in Royal David's City

*Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

*And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by.
We shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.*

*German Traditional Carol
Harmony: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Words: J. M. Neale (1811-1866)*

Reading: Luke 1.26-38

Katherine Jones

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸ 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.

Choir: Welcome to the World

Assisted by Bruce Tudball

The congregation is invited to stand and join the choir in singing the final two verses

CHOIR:

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking,
How we need to hear from God.
You've been promised, we've been waiting;
Welcome holy child, welcome holy child.

Hope that you don't mind our manger,
How I wish we could have known,
But long-awaited holy stranger,
Make yourself at home,
Please make yourself at home.

Bring your peace into our violence,
Bid our hungry souls be filled,
Word now breaking heaven's silence,
Welcome to our world, welcome to our world.

ALL:

*Fragile finger sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn
Tiny heart whose blood will save us
Unto us is born, unto us is born.*

*So wrap our injured flesh around you
Breathe our air and walk our sod
Rob our sins and make us holy
Perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God.
Welcome to our world.*

Words and music: Chris Rice, 1997

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

*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 to-night.*

*O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.
For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven:
no ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

English Traditional Carol

Words: Philips Brooks (1835 – 1893)

Community News

Simon Carey Holt

Offering

Reading: Luke 2. 1-7

Sherry Maddock

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Choir: What Child Is This?

What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while Shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is the Christ the King,
whom shepherds worship angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him praise; the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's son is here,
His love all loves exceeding.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the saviour comes, the babe, the son of Mary.

So, bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
all tongues and people own him,
The King of Kings salvation brings, let every heart enthrone him.
Raise, raise your song on high, while Mary sings a lullaby,
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Music: Greensleeves (attrib. Henry VIII)
Words: W. Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898)
Arr. David Cundy

Reading: Luke 2. 8-20

Jess Holt

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

¹⁵ 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.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.*

*“Fear Not”, said he, (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.”*

*“To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign.”*

*“The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.*

*Thus spake the Seraph: and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:*

*“All glory be to God on high,
and on the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease.”*

Words and music: Charles Wesley (1707 – 88)

Sermon: Longing for a New Story

Simon Carey Holt

Prayers of Intercession

Carolyn Francis

Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*Yea, Lord we greet thee, born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given.
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Latin Carol

Music: J. F. Wade (1711 – 1786)

Trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802 – 1880)

Benediction

Simon Carey Holt

Notices:

Many thanks to David Cundy, Clair Cvjeticanin, Bruce Tudball and the singers of the Christmas Choir for their music today.

You are warmly invited to join us for a Service of Celebration on
Christmas Day at 9.30am

On **Sunday December 30**, and on the Sundays throughout January, we will gather for worship at the usual time of 10.30am

Nowhere to go after church on Christmas Day?

See Carolyn for information about friendly places where you'd be welcome to join in.

The **church office** will be closed over the Christmas/ New Year period and will reopen on **Tuesday January 2**.

Wherever you are over the Christmas period, we pray you will know God's peace, and the joy of Christ's presence.

Blessings,
Simon, Carolyn, Sherry and all the staff at CSBC

TEAR's USEFUL GIFTS: There is an opportunity to purchase gifts from TEAR's **Useful Gifts Catalogue** in the narthex.

From chickens and safe drinking water to goats and school supplies, these gifts provide a wonderful way to support the work of TEAR and to provide thoughtful presents for friends and family this Christmas. See **Theresa Cheek** for more information.

Good Food \$25

Nothing tastes better than fresh fruit and vegetables that you've grown yourself! Your gift will help provide training for communities facing poverty, including the provision of seeds and equipment.



Food & Livelihoods

The prayer space in Advent



You may have seen that the Prayer Space has changed.
In Advent our focus is on the waiting, the longing, for Christ's coming.

You are invited to spend a few quiet minutes in the Prayer Space.
Allow yourself to be touched by those things that stand out for you – perhaps the colours, or images.
What memories are evoked...?

When we intentionally sit and just 'be' in the silent Presence, setting aside our thinking and allowing God to come to us afresh, we can experience God in new ways.