



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope
First Church in Windsor, UCC

Christmas Eve Family Service
Angels Among Us: Do Not Be Afraid

Prelude

The Holly and the Ivy/The First Noël
Arr. Catherine McMichael

Welcome

Procession of the Christ Light

Song

There Are Angels Among Us
By Marcia McFee and Chuck Bell
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**There are angels among us, there are angels among us,
there are angels among us, bringing love on earth.**

**Do not be afraid, do not be afraid,
do not be afraid, do not be afraid.**

Prayer

**Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,
Help us hear your message tonight.
Inspire us to be kinder, more loving people,
And give us the courage to be your messengers,
So we can create more love in this world.**

Song

**There are angels among us, there are angels among us,
there are angels among us, bringing love on earth.**

Passing of the Peace

I invite you to pass the hope of Christ with your neighbors, for each time we connect with one another, hope grows.

Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful

By John F. Wade
Public domain

**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.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory 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 this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all 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.**

Children's Moment

Prayer of our Savior

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words by Charles Wesley
Music by Felix Mendelssohn
Public domain

**Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled'
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'**

The Christmas Pageant

Video: The Story of Jesus' Birth

Introduction to the Pageant

Carols

O Little Town of Bethlehem,

By John F. Wade

Public domain

**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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

Angels We Have Heard on High

French traditional

Public domain

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

We Three Kings

By John H. Hopkins

Public Domain

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor, and mountain, following yonder star.**

**Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, cover us all to reign.**

**Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.**

**Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in a stone-cold tomb.**

**Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Go Tell it on the Mountain
African American Spiritual
Public Domain

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

Offering for Veterans of the Cross/Christmas Fund

Christmas Prayer

Sharing the Christ Light

John 1:1-4

Pastor Nicole will light her candle from the Christ candle, and the candle bearers will light the candle at the end of the pew. The light is passed by lighting the unlighted candle of your neighbor. Tip only the unlighted candles. Please extinguish your candle before you leave the pew.

Carol

Silent Night
Music by Franz Gruber
Words by Joseph Mohr
Public domain

**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,
glories stream 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!**

Song

**There are angels among us, there are angels among us,
there are angels among us, bringing love on earth.**

Benediction

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World
Words by Isaac Watts
Music by G.F Handel
Public domain

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy!**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Postlude

Puer Nobis Nascitur (Unto Us a Child Is Born)
By Jean Francois Dandrieu
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