

# Candlelight Service

## *The Wonder in Being Human, Now*

We dedicate this service in loving memory of Nancy Cox and Steffie Elliott. Throughout their time with us, both of these extraordinary women were instrumental in making our Candlelight Service one of warmth, beauty and connection.



### I. ENTERING

**Bell-Ringing**

Iyla Story

**Prelude**

Peter Boak

**Welcome**

Rev. Newton

**Call to Worship** *For So the Children Come*

Choir

\*Adapted from the original words of Sophia Lyon Fahs as inspired by Rik Lain Schell

### II. CENTERING

**Lighting the Chalice**

The Newton Thibodeaus

**\*Centering Hymn** *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.

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.

**Reading** *The Moment of Magic* by Rev. Victoria Safford

Reader: Susanna Savoy

**Choral Response** *Hanerot Halalu* arr. Becki Slagle Mayo

### III. ORDER FROM CHAOS

Reader: Peter Palches

**First Lesson** Genesis 1:1-3, 5

**Reading** from *Pale Blue Dot* by Carl Sagan

**\*Carol** *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 tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

**IV. BLESSINGS ABOUND IN DARKNESS & IN LIGHT** Reader: Christine Ferrone

**Second Lesson** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

**Reading** The words of the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker

**\*Carol** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children dwell. Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching heart bid cheer. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come within as Faith to dwell.

O come, thou Splendor very bright, as joy that never yields to might, O come and turn all hearts to peace, that greed and war at last shall cease. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come within as Joy to dwell.

**V. LOCATING HOPE**

Reader: Liz Loucks

**Third Lesson** Luke 2:1-7

**\*Carol** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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 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 favored one. Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity: Pleased, as man, with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king!

**Reading** *The Risk of Birth, An Advent Poem* by Madeleine L'Engle (1973)

**Choral Response** *What Can I Give Him?* arr. M. Schweizer

**VI. KEEPING WATCH**

Reader: Susanna Savoy

**Fourth Lesson** Luke 2:8-16

**Offering**

*Tonight's offering benefits the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which meets the needs of individuals and families on Martha's Vineyard.*

*This fund is used to provide confidential, urgent financial assistance that is recognized to be a need at the time of a confidential conversation with our minister. Please contribute as you are able. Your support is impossible to measure.*

**Offertory** *A La Nanita Nana (with Coventry Carol)*

Arr. G. Gilpin

## VII. EXPANDING WITNESS

Reader: Mimi Davisson

**Fifth Lesson** Matthew 2:1-5a, 7-11

**Reading** *The Three Wise Men* by W.H Auden

**\*Carol** *Angels We Have Heard On High*

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.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing: Come, adore on  
bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**Homily** "Being Human, Now"

Rev. Janet Newton

## VIII. FLAMES GO FORTH

**Candle Lighting Ritual**

**Carol** *Silent Night*

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.

**Meditation**

## Candlelight Extinguishing

Unison

**All: Through our words and actions, may we continue the work of Christmas, bringing the light of truth, the warmth of community and the fire of commitment from this space out into our world.**

## Musical Response *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Jim Thomas, Soloist

### Benediction

#### \*Carol *Joy to the World*

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 World, the Savior reigns! Let men 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 glory of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love

## Postlude

Peter Boak

## Thank You!

Our Greeters: The Parish Committee

Our Choir, under the generous direction of Peter Boak:

Bill Bridwell, Ann Charnley, Judy Crawford, Mark Friedman, Ursula Goodenough, Peter Halperin, Martha Halperin, Leah Hassell, Jennifer Knight, Mariah MacGregor, Sara Mass, Peter Meleney, Jacqui Noel, Annie Palches, Peter Palches, Jenifer Parkinson, Craig Saunders, Susanna Savoy, Sue Streeter, and Betsy Young Buck

Reverend Janet would like to offer words of gratitude to all who helped make this evening's service one of beauty and wonder — particularly the readers and the choir, with special thanks to Peter Boak for his music and direction. Deep thanks to the Rev. Aaron Stockwell for inspiring the structure of this service.

And finally, to all the members and friends who seek and find community within this beloved congregation: may your days be full of joy, your nights be full of warmth, your hearts be full of hope, and the year ahead be overflowing with wonder. Much love to you all.