



Worship Service for December 24, 2024 Christmas Eve Service of Communion and Candle Lighting

Prelude

Marshall Davies

Chiming of the Hour

Aimee Broadhurst

Welcome

Pastor Felix Carrión

***Praise and Worship Song**

Congregation

“We Light A Candle”

We light a candle for hope
and our world that's longing for hope
We light a candle for hope
and our world that's longing for hope
Holy One,
shine with the fire our lives on
We light a candle for hope
and our world that's longing for hope

We light a candle for love
and our world that's longing for love
We light a candle for love
and our world that's longing for love
Holy One,
shine with the fire our lives on
We light a candle for love
and our world that's longing for love

We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy
We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy
Holy One,
shine with the fire our lives on
We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy

We light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace
We light a candle for peace

and our world that's longing for peace

Holy One,

shine with the fire our lives on

We light a candle for peace

and our world that's longing for peace

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Pam Conyne & Pastor Felix Carrión

LEADER: It is the season of short days and long nights. We light these candles to remember that even in darkness, our lights shine.

ALL: The Christ Child we celebrate this evening reminds us of our divinity and the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love He came bearing for humanity.

LEADER: With these flames, we proclaim the Holy Light surrounding us, filling us with truth and love. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires; stronger than despair; stronger even than death.

ALL: Together we are walking the path of Godly light and love for ourselves and our world.

LEADER: Together we seek to embody this light and love for our world, as was the truth of Jesus' life.

ALL: Holy One, we open ourselves to you this Christmas Eve. May we be the incarnation of Jesus' life and love. May Jesus be born anew in us always.

***Carol**

Congregation

TNCH #144 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

vs. 1 & 3

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and seeker reconciled!"
Joyful, all you saints arise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angel host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring!"

Hail the Bearer of God's peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness,
Light and life our Jesus brings,
Come with radiant, healing wings.
Mildly laying glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us all from earth,
Born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring!"

***Gathering Prayer**

Congregation

ALL: God, our Creator, we offer this humble prayer on Christmas Eve. We come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts—a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy to reign in our hearts, hope to overcome despair, love to offer freely to one and all, and peace upon the earth. We ask for the healing of humanity, the restoration of creation, and your

blessings on all people, for we all come from you, the Source of All Life. May there be bread for the hungry, love for those rejected for who they are, healing of body and mind for the sick, and protection for our children. We pray for the abundant life and light of the Child Christ to reach us all. We pray in the name of all that is Holy and Precious and True.

Amen.

Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix Carrión

Luke 2:15-20

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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told to them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words

and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Contemporary Witness

Aimee Broadhurst

An Instrument of Your Peace:
A Tribute to the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi
Poems by Helen Steiner Rice

“What Is Love?”

What is love? No words can define it –
It's something so great only God could design it.
Wonder of wonders, beyond our conception –
And only in God can love find true perfection.
Yes, love is beyond what we can define,
For love is immortal and God's gift divine.

Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión

“Newly Born”

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

“Grant Us Peace”

(Spoken): The world waited with hope, watching expectantly for the peace promised by God in the scriptures: "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord. That peace was brought to earth in the form of a Child, born in a stable in Bethlehem. "For unto us a Child is born, a Son is given. And He will be called the Prince of Peace."

Dona nobis,
dona nobis pacem.

Born a child to grant us peace.
do-na no-bis pacem.
Grant us peace, Lord.

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;

the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Starlight shines in the evening sky while Mary sings a lullaby.
Peace on earth, good will for all.

Hope is born in a manger stall,
Dona nobis,
dona nobis pacem.

Born a Child to grant us peace.
Dona nobis pacem.

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.

Dona nobis,
dona nobis pacem.

Grant us peace.

Invitation to Offering

Aimee Broadhurst

Plymouth's General Fund, "Funding the Future", &
"UCC Christmas Fund" - Loose Offering

***Doxology**

Congregation

ALL: Praise God for gifts of hope and peace

Praise God for gifts of joy and love

Praise God for sending Christ to dwell

On earth for us - Emmanuel.

Amen.

***Offertory Prayer**

Aimee Broadhurst

**ALL: Holy One, we open our hearts and spirits to
new birth and transformation. We commit what we
have gathered to help us sow seeds of love into the
world. May this offering bring forth a new beginning
of hope and peace to all. Bless these gifts with your
power and anointing.**

Amen.

Invitation and Communion Prayer Pastor Felix Carrión

PASTOR: Welcome, friends, to this holy sharing.

ALL: We welcome love into our hearts.

PASTOR: Welcome to this time set apart.

ALL: A time to remember the holy promises of God.

PASTOR: Welcome to this table of remembrance and joy.

**ALL: The table where we are fed, the feast we share
with many.**

PASTOR: You are invited and welcome.

ALL: All are invited and welcome.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Felix Carrión

The New Zealand Book of Prayer

**ALL: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer,
Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is
heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through
the universe! The way of your justice be followed by
the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace**

and freedom sustains our hope and comes on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

**Communion Prayer
Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup
Sharing the Elements**

Pastor Felix Carrión

Communion Music

Plymouth Choir

“Love Came Down”

(Spoken:) Love is patient, love is kind. Love always protects. Love always hopes, always perseveres. Love bears all things, believes all things. Love endures all things. Love never ends. Love never fails. And now these three

remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Love came down at Christmas, Love came down (7x), Love came down! (Love came down!) Love came down at Christmas, Love came down!

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down! Gloria! (Love came down, love came down!) Love came down at Christmas, love came down!

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news that the angels bring.
All out of darkness we have light,
for Love came down on that Christmas night.
News of great hope and news of great mirth,
(Love and peace on earth,)
joyful news of our merciful King's birth.

Gloria!

(Love came down (3x).)

Oh come, all ye faithful,
(He is born, the divine Christ child,)
joyful and triumphant,
(play the oboe and bagpipe merrily.)

O come, o come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.
O come let us adore Him (3x),
Christ the Lord.

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 tiny Child.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
Love came down at Christmas,
Love came down (7x)
on Christmas night.

The Tradition of Candle Lighting

Pastor Felix Carrión

***Carol**

Congregation

TNCH #134 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

Silent night, holy night,

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Mary

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,
Child of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams
From your holy face
Bring the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus Christ at your birth,
Jesus Christ at your birth.

***Benediction**

Pastor Felix Carrión

***Carol**

Congregation

TNCH #132 "Joy to the World" vs. 1 & 3

Joy to the world!
The Lord is come;
Let earth its praises bring;
Let every heart
Prepare Christ room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven
And nature sing.
Christ rules the world
With truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of
God's righteousness
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders, wonders,
Of God's love.

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Aimee Broadhurst

Video: Amie & Shelby-Mak Friday

Sound: Tony Trosclair

Projector: Mary Davis

Lighting Technician: Jeff Mechler

Advent Candle Lighters: Pam Conyne

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