



Christmas Eve Service 2023 Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church

✧Prelude ~ Tippe Musicians

✧Blessing Poem: *The Map Our Dreaming Made*
~ by Jan Richardson janrichardson.com

I cannot tell you
how far I have come
to give this blessing
to you.

No map
for the distance crossed,
no measure
for the terrain behind,
no calendar
for marking
the passage of time
while I traveled a road
I knew not.

For now, let us say
I had to come by
a different star
than the one
I first followed,
had to navigate by
another dream
than the one
I loved the most.

But I tell you
that even here,
the hope

that each star belongs
to a light
more ancient still,

and each dream
part of the way
that lies beneath
this way,

and each day
drawing us closer
to the day
when every path
will converge

and we will see the map
our dreaming made,
luminous in every line
that finally led us
home.

✧ **While We are Waiting, Come**

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Christ, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Candle-lighting ~

Hope – As we light the candle of hope, may this light be an invitation to keep awake.

Peace – As we light the candle of peace, may it remind us that there is another way.

Joy – As we light the candle of joy, may we sow joy in a hurting world, and may it be an act of holy resistance.

Love – As we light the candle of love, may this light burn bright as a reminder that God is here and God is love.

A: In the beginning, God dreamed of a beautiful world.

B: In Egypt, the Israelites dreamed of freedom.

A: In the wilderness, the people dreamed of safety.

B: In Jerusalem, the people dreamed of a Messiah.

A: In Bethlehem, the shepherds and Wise Men dreamed of a new beginning.

B: Then, several years later, Jesus walked this earth and dreams came true.

A: The sick were healed.

A: The poor had food.

B: The forgotten and ignored were seen.

A: The children were welcomed.

B: Everyone was invited to the table, and the world has never been the same.

A: So tonight, we are those who dream.

B: Tonight, we dream the same dreams of our ancestors before us.

A: Tonight, we dream of justice and mercy, of love and kindness, of peace and hope.

B: Tonight we dream of a God that draws near to us out of unfailing love.

(Light the Christ Candle)

A: May this candle be a reminder that there will be a day when every dream will be fulfilled. And until then, we will be those who dream.

B: Let us worship God.

Still, Still, Still

Still, still, still

One can hear the falling snow

For all is hushed

The world is sleeping

Holy star, its vigil keeping

Still, still, still

One can hear the falling snow

Sleep, sleep, sleep

'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth

The night is peaceful all around You

Close Your eyes

Let sleep surround You

Sleep, sleep, sleep

'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth

Dream, dream, dream

Of the joyous day to come

While guardian angels without number

Watch You as You sweetly slumber

Dream, dream, dream

Of the joyous day to come

Luke 2: 1-4

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem* 121 (1st verse)*Luke 2: 5-7**

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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 in the guest room.

What Child is This* 145 (1st verse)*Luke 2: 8-10**

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

The First Nowell* 147 (1st verse)*Luke 2: 11-14**

to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Angels We Have Heard On High* 113 (1st verse)*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 them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and 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, just as it had been told them.

Away in a Manger 115 (1st verse)

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Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow
For all is hushed
The world is sleeping
Holy star, its vigil keeping
Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow

Sleep, sleep, sleep
'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth
The night is peaceful all around You
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While guardian angels without number
Watch You as You sweetly slumber
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Silent Night, Holy Night! 122 (verses 1, 2, 3)

✧ Postlude ~ Tippe Musicians

