

Christmas Eve Fireside Service

December 24, 2020 • 11:00 p.m.



WELCOME

INVOCATION

CAROL

Angel Tidings
Sanctus Ringers

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

TWO POEMS

The Risk of Birth by Madeleine L'Engle
This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a nova lighting the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honor & truth were trampled by scorn—
Yet here did the Savior make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by greed & pride the sky is torn—
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

And in the Red Box by Alice Walker
And in the red box
tied with red ribbons
tell me justice lies
and school books for children
tell me there is
a sandwich
for the man
starving
on the corner.
Tell me when Christmas
comes
peace
and a warm fire
happiness
and
joy
an end
to selfishness
comes with it.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

SCRIPTURE READING

from Luke 2

CAROL*I Wonder as I Wander*
Choral Ensemble

arr. Steve Pilkington

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor orn'ry people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of the ages it did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on wing,
All of God's angels in heaven sing, he surly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.

MEDITATION*Conspiracy***SCRIPTURE READING**

from John 1

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD**CAROL***A Child My Choice*
Choral Ensemble

Richard Dirksen

Text: Robert Southwell

Let folly praise that fancy loves, I praise and love that Child
Whose heart no thought, whose tongue no word, whose hand no deed defiled.
I praise him most, I love him best, all praise and love is his;
While him I love, in him I live, and cannot live amiss.

Love's sweetest mark, laud's highest theme, one's most desired light,
To love him life, to leave him death, to live in him delight.
He mine by gift, I his by debt, thus each to other due,
First friend he was, best friend he is, all times will try him true.

Though young, yet wise, though small, yet strong; though man, yet God he is;
As wise he knows, as strong he can, as God he loves to bliss.
His knowledge rules, his strength defends, his love doth cherish all;
His birth our joy, his life our light, his death our end of thrall.

Alas! he weeps, he sighs, he pants, yet do his angels sing;
Out of his tears, his sighs and throbs, doth bud a joyful spring.
Almighty Babe, whose tender arms can force all foes to fly,
Correct my faults, protect my life, direct me when I die!

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**CAROL***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
Virtual Chancel Choir

MENDELSSOHN



Worship Leadership includes Melissa Anne Rogers and Rick Spalding, liturgists; Lorna Hildebrandt, Leslie Smith, Taylor Adams, Heidi Hess-Willis, Tyrese Byrd, David Magumba, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey, singers; Paul Haebig, organ; and Amy Ruhf, videographer.