

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24, 2023 - 5:30 PM

GATHERING MUSIC

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (arr. Gary de Sesa/Gary B. de Sesa)
(Gary Bouroff de Sesa – Violin)

WELCOME

* HYMN: 41 (Blue Hymnal) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Responsive)

Leader: In the beginning was the Word.

People: **And the Word was with God and the Word was God.**

Leader: In the Word was light.

People: ***And the light was the life of all people.***

Leader: The light shines in the darkness.

People: ***And the darkness has not overcome it.***

Leader: So let us worship God in wonder and in love, trusting in
God's light.

* HYMN: 40 (Blue Hymnal) *Joy to the World! Vs 1&2*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

One: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not
overcome it.

**Many: We are easily distracted by our old lives and with history
and by what has been.**

One: Christ is born among us and our hope is made new.

**All: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with
your transforming power.**

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 22:15-18 God promises that, through
Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.

* HYMN: 245 (Red Hymnal) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

(“*” invites all who are able to stand. **Bold** indicates read in unison.)

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 The people who walk in darkness
receive the promise of the Messiah.

* HYMN: 251 (Red Hymnal) *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 The Messiah will come from the
root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

* HYMN: 277 (Red Hymnal) *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-35, 38 An angel appears to Mary and
announces that she will bear a holy child.

SOLO

O Holy Night

Adam

(Kita de Sesa - Soprano)

(Gary Bouroff de Sesa – Violin)

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-16 Angels appear to shepherds in the fields
and announce the birth of the Messiah.

* HYMN: 278 (Red Hymnal) *Angels We Have Heard on High*

MESSAGE

Beyond the Nativity

Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-11 Magi from the East come seeking the
Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.

* HYMN: 288 (Red Hymnal) *We Three Kings*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: God of grace and truth, in Christ you offer us the gift of
yourself, but we are attracted to presents under the tree. You
came to us in flesh and blood, but we fail to see you in the humans
right beside us. You shine in the world, but we dwell on the
darkness in the daily news. Forgive us. Renew our hope and our
trust in you as you reach out to us from the manger. Amen.**

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANTHEM

Light a Candle

(Candles will be lit)

Keen

* HYMN: 253 (Red Hymnal)

Silent Night! Holy Night!

CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Christmas Fantasy (arr. Paul Johnson)*
(Gary Bouroff de Sesa - Violin)

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To all assembled on this Christmas Eve:

*We are blessed to have you with us and we invite you to be part of
our church family as we worship together
each Sunday morning at 10.*

Services are also online at: www.RoslynPresbyterianChurch.com

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth | Pastor |
| Dr. Gary de Sesa | Director, Ministry of Music |
| Dr. Natalie Naylor | Clerk of Session |
| Robert Gilmore | Treasurer |

Kita de Sesa, Soprano soloist, Reader
Gary Bouroff de Sesa, Violinist

The Poinsettias today are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by the members of the congregation.

ANTHEM
“Light A Candle”

-Keen

Light a candle, hold a sign of hope in your hand.
Light a candle, let it shine across the land.
The hour that seems the darkest turns quickly into day.
Light a candle, let it show us the way.

Light a candle for the child who sleeps in the cold.
Light a candle, let our heart’s compassion unfold.
A light will make the darkness seem easier to bear.
Light a candle for the hope that we share.

Let your light outshine your ev’ry fear.
Hold it high, hold onto what is clear;
Hold onto ev’rything that you hold dear.

Light a candle, let it shine for young and old.
Light a candle, let your heart’s compassion unfold.
A ray of hope for all of us, a simple, silent prayer.
Light a candle for the love that we share.
Light a candle for the light that we share.

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven
¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have
done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will
indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the
stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your
offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your
offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves,
because you have obeyed my voice.”

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those
who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ⁶ For a
child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his
shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Great will be his authority, and
there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Luke 2:8-16

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.