

# Magnifying and Glorifying Our Lord, It Is Fitting!

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## **PRELUDE** *Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol* Gerald Near

Dennis Bergin, organ

Note on the Prelude

This year marks the centennial of the first performance in the United States of the beloved Christmas staple "Carol of the Bells". Based on a Ukrainian folk song, "Carol of the Bells" was written by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych and performed at Carnegie Hall by the touring Ukrainian National Chorus on October 5, 1922. The version heard today is an exciting carillon for organ by American composer Gerald Near.

This work is presented to the glory of God in the hope and prayer that Jesus, our glorious Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to our weary, war-torn world and to the hearts of all he came to save.

## **CHORAL PRELUDE** *Carol of the Bells*

Sanctuary Choir; Carrie Smith, keyboard

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## **WELCOME**

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

## **ADVENT BELL TOLLING**

## **LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE** Luke 2:8-20

Reverend David Barnes, Associate Pastor

The Lee Family

**Pastor:** Today, we light the third candle of Advent

**Josh:** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**Kristin:** When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**\*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO! NO. 214** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Prudence Barker, Julia Teves, violin; Bob Nagy, cello; Charis Baker, flute; Holly Henske, clarinet; Nicole Lesh, bass clarinet; April Northington, tenor sax; Will Barker, trombone; Carrie Smith, piano; Matt Brantley, bass; Greg Wagener, drums;

**\*GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** Exodus 15:2, 11, 13; Revelation 15:3b-4

**Pastor:** The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation;

**People:** **This is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.**

**Pastor:** “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?”

**People:** **Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?**

**Pastor:** “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

**People:** **“Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!**

**Pastor:** Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!

**People:** **Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name?**

**Pastor:** For you alone are holy.

**People:** **All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”**

**\*COME AND WORSHIP! NO. 218** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

**\*WE INVOKE HIS PRESENCE**

**GOD EXPOSES OUR NEED** Matthew 22:36-40

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

**WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

**CHRIST PROVIDES FOR OUR NEED** Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

**\*AND HER WARFARE NOW IS OVER! No. 197** *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

**\*GOD REVEALS HIS STEADFAST LOVE!** Psalm 107:31-32, 41-43

Pastor: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

**People: Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.**

Pastor: He raises up the needy out of affliction and makes their families like flocks.

**People: The upright see it and are glad, and all wickedness shuts its mouth.**

Pastor: Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things;

**People: Let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.**

**\*THE WONDROUS GIFT IS GIVEN! No. 201** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**WE INVOKE HIS HELP** Psalm 50:15

Josh Lee, Administration and Communications Director

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

**GOD CALLS US TO STEWARDSHIP** Psalm 86:12

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

**WE GIVE OUR GRATEFUL OFFERINGS**

**WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD** *Gloria I*  
Middle School/High School Choir; Sanctuary Choir

**Glória in excélsis Déo, Glória in excélsis Déo**  
(Glory to God in the highest, Glory to God in the highest.)  
**Et in térra pax homínibus bónae voluntátis.**  
(And on earth peace to all those of good will)  
**Laudámus te. Benedícimus te.**  
(We praise thee. We bless thee.)  
**Adorámus te. Glorificámus te.**  
(We worship thee. We glorify thee.)  
**Grátias ágimus tibi propter mágnam glóriam túam.**  
(We give thanks to thee according to thy great glory.)  
**Glória in excélsis Déo, Glória in excélsis Déo**  
(Glory to God in the highest, Glory to God in the highest.)

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**Children's Church** - Children & Teachers please come forward **AFTER** the Offertory.  
(Pre-K, Kindergarten & 1st Grade, Room 207).

<b>GOD PROCLAIMS HIS WORD</b>	Reverend Dr. Russell St. John Lead Pastor
<b>SERMON SERIES</b>	“Magnify! Glorify!”
<b>SCRIPTURE TEXTS</b>	Psalm 69:30-32   Page 483 in the pew Bible
<b>SERMON TITLE</b>	<i>It Is Fitting</i>

**\*O COME, LET US ADORE HIM! No. 208** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** *Reprise: O Come, All Ye Faithful*

## ***It Is Fitting***

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

Psalm 69:30-32 | Page 483 in the pew Bible

Since it is fitting to magnify the LORD, magnify Him!

1. It pleases the LORD

2. It gladdens the Brethren

\*Congregation please rise

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