

# **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**



**DECEMBER 24, 2023  
6PM**

**SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
1111 HARVARD AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WA  
[seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://seattlefirstbaptist.org)**

Welcome to Worship at Seattle First Baptist. All are Welcome.

Children are a treasured part of our community.

Please find a Worship Adventure Packet or a Busy Box at the tables in the foyer.

Children are free to use these resources in the pews or the Wiggle Room.

*We gather on the unceded ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, past and present.*

*With gratitude, we honor the land itself and the legacy of the First People of Seattle, the Duwamish Tribe.*

*May we remember that the oppression of Native peoples is not a relic of the past but continues today.*

*And may we, through God's Spirit, repent and walk forward together,  
changing systems that discriminate as we live into authentic diversity and healing.*

*\*If it is comfortable, you are invited to stand.*

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*Children and youth are welcome to set up the nativity with the pastors during the prelude.*

Preludes                      “Waltz of the Snowflakes” (*The Nutcracker*, Op. 71)      Christian Broughton  
P.I. TCHAIKOVSKY / *arr.* S. TANEYEV

“Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen,” Op. 122, No. 8  
JOHANNES BRAHMS

Welcome and Passing of the Peace                      Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

**\*Hymn**                      “O Come, All Ye Faithful”                      ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels,

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:

“Glory to God, all glory in the highest,” *[refrain]*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born in us this evening,

Jesus to thee be all glory giv’n.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *[refrain]*

Advent Candle Lighting: Welcome                      The de la Cruz Family

**Wreath Lighting Song #124**                      Away in a Manger                      AWAY IN A MANGER

Time with Children                      Pastor Anita Peebles

ADOLPH ADAM/*arr.* JOHN LEAVITT

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another; his law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall  
cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His  
pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Prayer

Pastor Anita Peebles

Call to Giving and Offering

**\*Hymn**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”  
Christ, by highest heav’n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with flesh in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”  
Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that all 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 newborn King!”

Scripture

LUKE 2:1-20 (NRSVue)

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. 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 inn.

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: 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!”

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.

Reader: “For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,  
and for the word of God within us.”

**All: “Thanks be to God.”**

Message

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

Communion

Pastor Anita Peebles and Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

*All are welcome to partake of the Lord's supper, regardless of baptismal status or denominational affiliation.  
We serve gluten free bread and grape juice for communion. Tonight we share communion by intinction  
(dipping the bread into the cup of grape juice). Those who are comfortable may come forward and  
partake of the bread and cup. If you are more comfortable remaining seated,  
please raise your hand and you will be served at your seat.*

Communion Music

“Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming”  
arr. ALEX-ZSOLT

Christian Broughton

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow;  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heav’n cannot hold him; nor earth sustain;  
Heav’n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed;  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the midnight air.  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What shall I give him? Poor as I am,  
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him; give my heart.

“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

What child is this who laid to rest on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this the angels sing is Christ God’s holy offering;  
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary.  
Why lies the Child in manger bare where ox and ass are feeding?  
Give heed, draw near for sinner here the silent word is pleading.  
This, this the angels sing is Christ God’s holy offering;  
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary.  
Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh, come join in jubilation;  
The Holy Child though meek and mild, has come with God’s salvation.  
This, this the angels sing is Christ God’s holy offering;  
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary.

### Candle Lighting

*The pastors will bring the light from the Christ candle to the congregation.  
When it is your turn to receive the light, tip your unlit candle towards the flame.  
You are welcome to keep your candle lit through “Silent Night” and the benediction.  
Children are welcome to use their glow sticks instead of candles, as their grown-ups advise.*

"I will light Candles this Christmas,  
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all year long."

**\*Hymn**

"Silent Night"

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright;  
'Round yon virgin 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; Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth;  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Benediction

Pastor Leigh Curl-Dove

**\*Hymn**

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.  
  
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders and wonders of his love.

*Please deposit your used candles in the baskets by the sanctuary doors on your way out.*

Postlude

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

Christian Broughton

*arr.* NOEL RAWSTHORNE

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Cover artwork: “Surrogacy” by Hannah Garrity.

Inspired by Luke 2:1-20. Oil paint, charcoal, and copper leaf on canvas. Courtesy of sanctifiedart.org.

The advent candle liturgy is adapted from Rev. Angela Wells and Rev. Anita Peebles.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 24**

*Please see This Week in your email and on our Facebook page for further information and other announcements.*

**Holiday Church Office Hours:** Closed December 25, 26, and January 1. Open December 27-29 9am to Noon.

**Installation for Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove and SFBC Co-Pastors:** Sunday, January 7 at 2pm in the Sanctuary. Presided by Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal, Executive Minister of Evergreen, with guest preachers Rev. Heather Mustain and Rev. Joy Martinez-Marshall.

## **SFBC CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

*For Zoom links, see our online calendar at [seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://seattlefirstbaptist.org)*

Monday 12/25 **Holiday Virtual Open House** 11am-Noon on Zoom

Sunday 12/31 **A Service of Lessons and Carols** 11am in the Sanctuary

*Email [contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org) to reach any of the following people.*

### **STAFF**

Rev. Anita Peebles, *Pastor*  
Rev. Leigh Curl-Dove, *Pastor*  
Darren Hochstedler, *Church Administrator*  
Ben Luedcke, *Minister of Music*  
Christian Broughton, *Organist & Communications Manager*  
Judy Scott, *Office Manager*  
Dick Steele, *Facilities Manager*  
Vanessa Perkinson, *Small Groups Ministry Coordinator*  
Kellie Whitlock, *Sound & Video Engineer*  
Chase McAdams, *Caretaker*  
Stephenie Simmons, *Chef*

### **COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES**

Mike Zaugg, *Congregation President*  
Megan Walker, *Vice President*  
Eric Watness, *Secretary*  
Inola de la Cruz, *Treasurer*  
Corey Clemons  
Roem de la Cruz  
David Delgado  
Heather Dodge  
Sue Ross  
Bob Sittig  
David Young