

Star of Wonder, Star of Night

Folks,

Worship this Sunday was a service of Lessons and Carols. We were blessed to have so many from the congregation lend their time and talents to play the carols on a wide variety of instruments in the absence of our ability to sing them. Special thanks to Bob Duda, Emily Ewy, Kate Ewy, Anna Eller, Mary Kelly and her grandchildren Giselle, Lorien and Anastasia, Andrea Potter, Maria Franklin, Ellen MacMaster, Matt Gayle, Tucker Catanzaro, our esteemed pianist Jarrett Larson and guest soloist Rebecca MacDougall. Given the format and resulting length of service, and to better fit the vibe of this particular liturgy, my Christmas gift to the congregation was a homiletical verse rather than narrative sermon.

Due to the recent spike of COVID, the Session has decided it best to not offer our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Given the spiritual depth of this particular congregation, and impressive creative talents, you are invited to mark and celebrate Christmas with your own, individual moments of solemnity and festiveness. Please know that we are together in Spirit this Christmas, and abide forever in the faith which is both our strength and our joy.

A very Merry Christmas to you all!
- Rev. Mike

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Lessons & Carols Homily

December 19, 2021

Rev. Michael Catanzaro

Joyful and triumphant we come this day
to adore the child who in a manger lay.

Through field, past fountain,
over moor and mountain.

We follow the star at its rising
to seek the faith of God's devising.

O, Star of wonder, star of night,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Mild He lays His glory by,
born that we no more may die.

Sleeping in a heavenly peace,
a promise brought that wars will cease.

Born to raise the ones of earth,
born to give us second birth.

O, Star of wonder, star of night,
guide us to thy perfect light.

So with the angels we do hark
and as one in spirit we thus embark.

To find this new born King of Kings,
hope from heart within us springs.

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head,
to where we might follow and, now, are led.

O, Star of wonder, star of night,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Thus, at Dayspring, we come and cheer
to greet the Spirit of thine Advent here.
With heaven and nature we join to sing,
bells shall ring with the praise we bring.
Love has driven away the shades of night
no more shall clouds bring us fright.
O, Star of wonder, star of night,
guide us to thy perfect light.

God rest ye merry gentle ones,
gathered 'round God's holy son.
Remembering Christ born on Christmas Day,
there is nothing now to bring dismay.
Tidings of both comfort and joy
we bring this world and now employ.
O, Star of wonder, star of night,
guide us to thy perfect light.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
As like a flower with fragrance tender,
he fills the air with glorious splendor.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
earthly shouts join heavenly voices.
O, Star of wonder, star of night,
guide us to thy perfect light.

No longer lay the world in sin or error pining,
this holy night the stars are brightly shining.
For yonder breaks a new, glorious morn;
the son of Mary and Joseph is born.
To the earth shall Christ give great light
to peasant and king who own him might.
O, Star of wonder, star of night,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm and all is bright.
The King of kings salvation brings,
shepherd quake an angel sings.
Sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.
O, Star of wonder, star of night,
guide us to thy perfect light.

As with gladness ones of old,
this ancient story we have now retold.
With lowing of bass and twinkling of keys,
we worship God to honor and please.
From strings both plucked and bowed
the faith within us thus has flowed.
O, Star of wonder, star of night,
guide us to thy perfect light.

We pray in such times this truth prevail
so again proclaim this glorious tale.
That *we* might be the wonder here on earth
to share the news of Jesus' birth.
With shepherds and magi we take our place,
with love and hope the future face.
For we are stars of wonder, stars in the night,
guiding to thy perfect light. Amen.