
[Test] Christmas Eve Service at Old First

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Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 3:59 PM

OLDfirst

REFORMED CHURCH | Park Slope

*Rev. Dr. Jane Ann Groom, Interim Pastor**Aleeza Meir, Music Director*

December 24, 2020 — 7 pm

Use this eBulletin for the Service.

- Click [here](#) to register and receive a link for the service.
- **To join via phone:** Dial 1-929-205-6099
If you are told to enter a webinar id, it is: 85677642309
- **Print Bulletin:** pdf

Please have ready a candle for lighting.



Worship Service**Prelude***Of the Father's Love Begotten***Welcome****Hymn***O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**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:
O come, let us adore him; O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes,

**Venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte regem angelorum.
Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
venite adoremus Dominum.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
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 Heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Votum, Salutation and Collect

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Homily

Pastor Jane Ann Groom

Offering

Deacon Kent Adams

It has long been a tradition at Old First that 100% of the Christmas Eve offering goes to our worthy mission partners, which are currently HousingPlus, CHiPS, and our very own Brooklyn Relief Kitchen. Our preferred method of offering is through the digital platform Tithe.ly, which you can easily access through their smart-phone app or through a link on our website: OldFirstBrooklyn.org. The link is the bright green "Give" button at the bottom right of the homepage. Be sure to select Mission in the dropdown menu. If you prefer, mail us a check at 729 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Please note "Christmas Eve Mission Offering" in the memo line.

Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by
we shall see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around.**

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

Lector: Marian Bagnulo

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of a woman shall bruise the

serpent's head.

Hymn

On this Day Earth Shall Ring

**On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
to the Lord Christ our King,
born on earth to save us,
him the Father gave us:
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o,
Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**God's bright star o'er his head,
wise men three to him led,
kneeling low by his bed,
lay their gifts before him,
praise him and adore him:
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o,
Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**On this day angels sing,
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us,
peace and love he gave us:
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o,
Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

Lector: Josh Breitzer

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

יִקְרָא מִלֵּאָה יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָהָם שְׁנֵית מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם:
יֹאמֶר בְּי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נְאֻם־יְהוָה
כִּי יֵשֶׁן אֲשֶׁר עֲשִׂית אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה וְלֹא תִשְׁכַּת אֶת־בְּנֶגְ אֶת־יְחִידָךְ:
כִּי־בָרַךְ אֲבְרָהָם וְהִרְבָּה אַרְבָּה אֶת־זַרְעוֹךָ כְּכֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְכָחוּל אֲשֶׁר עַל־שֵׁפֶת הַיָּם:
וְיָרַשׁ זַרְעוֹךָ אֶת שְׁעַר אֲבִיבֵי:
וְהִתְבָּרְכוּ בְּזַרְעוֹךָ כָּל גּוֹי הָאָרֶץ לְעֹבֵד אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעַת בְּקֹלִי:

Solo

Quia Fecit Mihi Magna (from Magnificat) — J. S. Bach

Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius.

(Because he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name)

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Lector: Burkhard Bilger

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

Carol

Go Tell It On the Mountain

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shown a heavenly light.**

Refrain: Go, tell it...

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

Refrain: Go, tell it...

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Refrain: Go, tell it...**

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

Lector: Margaret Kearney

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Solo

Rejoice (from Messiah) — G.F. Handel

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion;
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee;
He is the righteous Saviour,
and He shall speak peace unto the Heathen.
Rejoice greatly...*

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Lector: Jenn Cribbs

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

**Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heavenly song.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-23

Lector: Kent Adams

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Trio

Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen — Michael Praetorius/Aleeza Meir

*Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen
aus einer Wurzel zart
wie uns die Alten sungen
von Jesse kam die Art*

*und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter
wohl zu der halben Nacht.*

*(A rose has sprung up
from a tender root,
as the old ones sang to us,
its strain came from Jesse
And it has brought forth a floweret
in the middle of the cold winter
Well at half the night.)*

*Das Röslein, das ich meine,
davon Jesaja sagt
hat uns gebracht alleine
Marie, die reine Magd.
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat
hat sie ein Kind geboren
und blieb doch reine Magd.*

*(The little rose that I mean,
Of which Isaiah told,
is Mary, the pure,
who brought us the floweret.
At God's eternal counsel
she has borne a child
and remained a pure maid.)*

*Das Blümelein so kleine
das duftet uns so süß,
mit seinem hellen Scheine
vertreibt's die Finsternis.
Wahr' Mensch und wahrer Gott,
hilft uns aus allem Leide,
rettet von Sünd und Tod.*

*(The floweret, so small
that smells so sweet to us,
with its bright gleam
it dispels the darkness.
True man and true God,
it helps us from all trouble,
saves us from sin and death.)*

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Lector: Linda Larson

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Solo

I Wonder as I Wander — John Jacob Niles/Aleeza Meir

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

*When Mary birth'd 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 ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,*

He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

Eighth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Lector: Jeff Spurgeon

The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol

Stille Nacht

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht
Alles schläft: einsam wacht
nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

*(Silent night, holy night
All is sleeping, alone watches
only the close, most holy couple.
Blessed boy in curly hair,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!)*

**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,
heav'nly 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.**

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Pastor Jane Ann Groom

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Silence

Hymn

Joy to the World

**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 world! The Savior reigns;
let men their songs employ;**

**while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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.**

Benediction

Postlude

Vom Himmel hoch — Johannes Pachelbel

Christmas Eve Team

Music Director and Organist: Aleeza Meir

Soprano: Emily Donato

Soprano: Elyse Anne Kakacek

Mezzo Soprano: Evelyn Troester DeGraf

Countertenor: Jeffrey Mandelbaum

Baritone: Nathaniel Sullivan

Violin: Georgy Valtchev

Recorder: Martin Bernstein

Once In Royal David's City soloists:

Gretta Adams

Evelyn Cribbs

The Bilger Family

Angels We Have Heard On High soloists:

Lily Brooks

Joseph Brooks

Quartet:

Elyse Anne Kakacek

Evelyn Troester Degraf

Josh Breitzer

Nathaniel Sullivan

Stille Nacht soloist:

Hans Bilger

Old First Virtual Choir:

Wayne Adams

Philip Alexander

Faye Barth

Burkhard Bilger

Hans Bilger

Donna Breitzer

Josh Breitzer

Joseph Brooks

Lily Brooks

Karen Bulthuis

Jeff Cribbs
Jenn Cribbs
Evelyn Troester DeGraf
Emily Donato
Ryan Eick
Lindsay Gavin
Kelly Greene
Douglas Hamilton
Elyse Anne Kakacek
Linda Larson
Jeffrey Mandelbaum
Jennifer Nelson
Susan Snyder
Jeff Spurgeon
Jessica Stockton-Bagnulo
Nathaniel Sullivan
Jabe Ziino

Video Production and Editing: Aleeza Meir
Broadcast Production: Jessica Stockton-Bagnulo
Recording: Michael Daves and Jessi Carter
Descants Composer (except for O Come, All Ye Faithful): Aleeza Meir
Production Consultant: Christopher Osborn
Zoom Administration: Jabe Ziino

Our Missions and Benevolence

HousingPlus

Our mission is to provide community-based housing and comprehensive services to women, including women with children, to support them in overcoming poverty, homelessness, addiction, trauma, and the effects of incarceration, in order to build lives of stability, and to define and realize goals for themselves and for their families. <https://housingplusnyc.org/>

CHiPS

We feed the hungry in our soup kitchen, and shelter homeless young women and their infants in our France Residence. <http://chipsonline.org/>

Brooklyn Relief Kitchen at Old First

Brooklyn Relief Kitchen at Old First is a volunteer-led organization founded by restaurant industry professionals to tackle food insecurity in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://brooklynreliefkitchen.org>

About Old First

Old First Reformed Church is a community of Jesus Christ in Brooklyn, offering a space of unconditional welcome, a practice of worship and service, and a vision of God's love and justice for all.

We invite you to come back and worship with us on Sundays and we invite you to join us in our witness and ministry.

Sunday Services

To join our Sunday 11:00 a.m. virtual service click on: <https://zoom.us/j/281701997>.

To join via phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099. If you are told to enter a webinar id, the id is: 281701997.

Please join us for Virtual Coffee Hour after the Sunday Service.
To log-on, Ctrl+click: <https://zoom.us/j/402156419>.

Clergy

Rev. Dr. Jane Ann Groom, *Interim Pastor*

Staff

Aleeza Meir, *Music Director*

Maureen Doyle, *Finance & Operations Director*

Lindsay Gavin, *Office Coordinator*

Abraham Barrios, *Sexton*

Consistory

Elders:

2021

Jessica Stockton Bagnulo

Jeff Cribbs

2022

Ken Nieuwenhuis

2023

Wayne Adams

Jabe Ziino

Deacons:

2021

Kent Adams

Jane Barber

2022

Susan Snyder

2023

Philip Alexander

Kelly Greene

Officers

Jeff Cribbs, *Vice President*

Kent Adams, *Deacons Chair*

Danny Silitonga, *Treasurer*

Elisabeth Gaikema Platt, *Financial Secretary pro tem*

Maureen Doyle, *Bursar*

Lindsay Gavin, *Clerk*

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