



# Altamont Reformed Church

Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2023

Prelude

“What Child is This?”

John M. Rasley  
Audrey Daly-Gilman, Organist

Welcome

Christmas Carol Sing (unannounced from the purple hymnal)

“The First Nowell” #147 (vv. 1 & 6)

“What Child is This” #145

“Angels We Have Heard on High” # 113

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” #121

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Light has come to shine in the darkness  
**whose name is older than the sun**

Bethlehem has opened Eden, come, let us see  
**we have found delight in secret, come, let us receive  
the joys of Paradise within the cave.**

He who is a babe shall become the ruler of creation  
**And he is ancient of days.**

As we light the Christ candle, let us consider how we might reflect the light of  
Christ to the world

**\*Hymn: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (Purple) #108**

**Prayer**

**\*Hymn: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (Purple) #119**

**Children’s Message**

**Special Offering      “Go With Him to Bethlehem”      Pepper Choplin**  
Go With Him to Bethlehem, go with him to Bethlehem. Shepards, lift your eyes, see the angels come with heaven’s glory. All through your lives, you will go and tell this wondrous story: how the angels came to you to announce the holy truth, that a Child is born and he is Christ the Lord. Go to him in Bethlehem, see this mighty wonder. Go to him in Bethlehem, see the holy Child. Worship him in Bethlehem and bow down in praise. He is Christ the Lord. He is Christ the Lord. Shepherds, see the Child. Tell the people all the angels told you. Stay with him a while. Let the holy presence come enfold you. You will celebrate the day when the angels showed the way. You will shout with joy that he is Christ the Lord.

Go to him in Bethlehem, see this mighty wonder. Go to him in Bethlehem, see the holy Child. Worship him in Bethlehem and bow down in praise. His is Christ the Lord. He is Christ the Lord. O come, let us adore him.....He is Christ the Lord, rise up and praise, rise up and praise, rise up and praise, rise up and go to him!

*(the sanctuary lights are dimmed)*

**Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20 (New Testament p. 58)**

**Christmas Reading “God’s Daring Plan” by Barbara Brown Taylor**

**Reading: John 1:1-14**

## Quiet Reflection and Prayer

### Passing of the Light

Please remain seated during the lighting of the candles. As we reflect, you will receive the light of the Christ Candle and spread that light throughout the congregation. Once your candle is lit, pass the light to the person beside you.

### Christmas Hymn: “Silent Night”

*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!*

*Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing "Alleluia" to our King:  
“Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.”*

Prayer

*(Sanctuary lights are raised)*

\*Hymn: “Joy to the World!” (Purple) #134

Benediction

## **Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

**Postlude**

**“The Song of the Angels”**

**Robert J. Hughes**

\*Indicates the congregation stands if able

**Thank you to** organist Audrey Daly-Gilman and our Chancel Choir.

**This year’s special offering** will be divided between ARC’s Deacon’s Fund and the Cornerstone Campus Ministry at U Albany.

Greeters tonight are Sallie Townsend, Lois Ginsburg, and Pam Fialkoff. Michael Gilman is our AV support person.

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