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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

December 1, 2024

9:45 AM

### Silent Night: But the News Shouts at Us

Silent Night: The Paradox

First Sunday of Advent

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Additionally, after the children's message, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS JOYS & CONCERNS

#### INVITATION INTO THE PARADOX

**HYMN** (v. 1)

Silent Night

ALL SING: 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.

LIFE IN THE PARADOX  $^{\rm 1}$ 

Deb & Jack Herlocker

#### UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY—CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 121 NCH (black hymnal, see next page)

All Earth is Waiting

# C: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope. All glory to God!

L: As we gather to praise Christ our King, I invite you to stand as comfortable to sing God's praise.

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 277 NCH** (black hymnal, see below)

Holy, Holy, Holy

# All Earth is Waiting



#### **\*TIME OF CONFESSION**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God, you invite us into the mystery of Your serene love.

C: You say to us, "Be still and know that I am God."

L: We sing, "Silent night,"

C: But we confess that it is hard to be still and silent while being assaulted by the noise of this season. It's a paradox.

L: Hush the holiday hullabaloo, we pray.

C: Forgive us, so that in the stillness and silence we might hear again the message of the Messiah.

(Silence is held for personal reflection)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** 

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

An Advent Credo

by Martin

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** 

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80 (CEB)

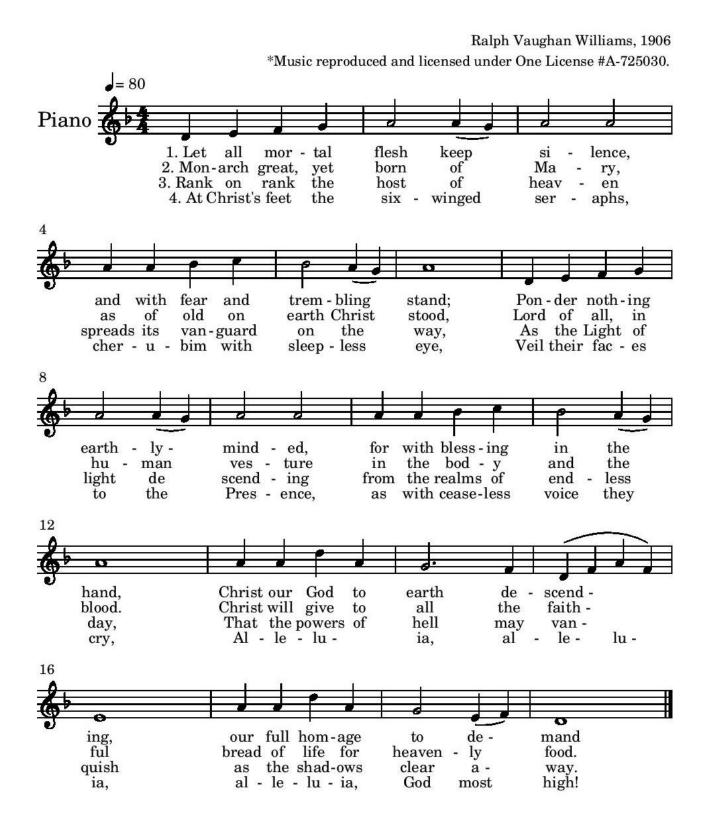
MESSAGE

#### HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 345 NCH (black hymnal, vs. 1-3—see next page)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



### Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP OFFERTORY Breath of Heaven \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

by Grant & Eaton

#### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TELLING GOD'S STORY<sup>2</sup> INVITATION TO THE TABLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

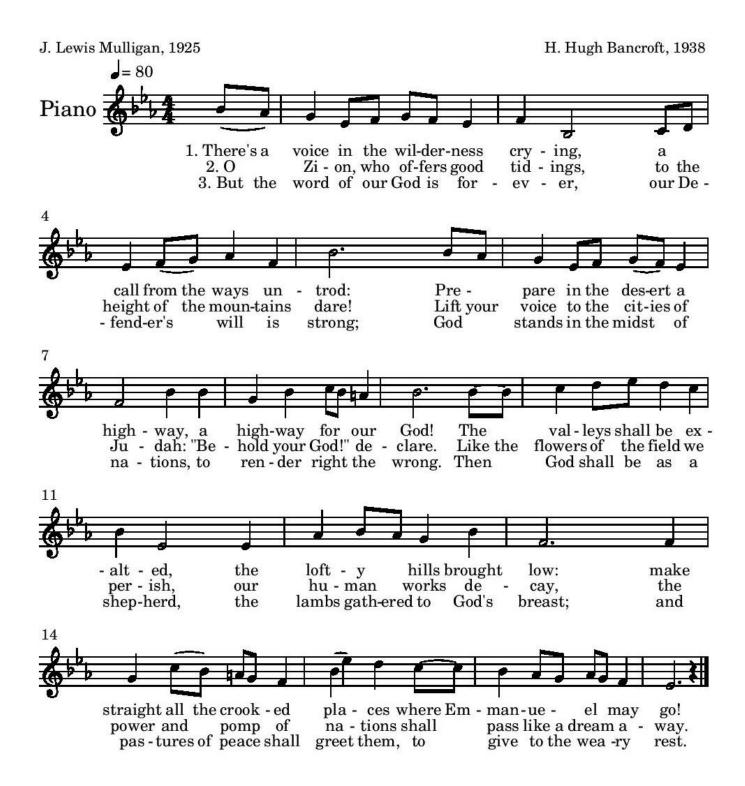
POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: I invite you to stand as comfortable, as together we pray...Christ our Savior, C: in the silence we are waiting to receive your love come anew. This day we see the paradox before us. Darkness still grows--but the light is gathering. Bread has been broken--but justice is slipping through the cracks. Blood has been shed--but the moment is turning. The journey is lonely--but the angels stir. We hold our breath in anticipation of the Silent Night--but the word is now ready to speak. Lead us into Advent, fed by your holy meal, with the expectation that the headlines are being rewritten and that the shouts of your Good News will guide us. Amen.

**Sending Hymn NO. 120 NCH** (black hymnal, see next page)

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

## There's a Voice in the Wilderness



### **References**

<sup>1</sup>Life in the Paradox and Time of Confession were written by Deb Herlocker for our Advent series.

<sup>2</sup>Communion Liturgy and Post-Communion Prayer is adapted from the writings of Roddy Hamilton, as posted on Mucky Paws. http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws and accessed for use on 11/19/24.

Special thanks to our Advent Team: Elaine Bevivino, Deb Herlocker, & Cindy Hogentogler

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

Bearer of Light: Jack Bicher
Life in the Paradox: Deb and Jack Herlocker
Welcome Team Members—Vanessa Bicher, Sarah Shaffer, Sara Eberly, & Ron Miles
Liturgist— Andrea Adams
Tech Team—George DeMers, Paul Ramsey, Joe Vacante

#### **Worship Choir**



