"In Dulci Jubilo"  
(Old German Carol)  

"In dulci Jubilo let us our homage shew; our heart's joy reclineth in praesepio and like a bright star shineth, matris in gremio. Alpha es et O. O Jesu parvule! I yearn for Thee alway! Hear me, I beseech Thee, O puer optime! My prayer let it reach Thee, O puer optime! My prayer let it reach Thee, O princeps gloriae! Trahe me post te!

O Patris caritas, O Natilenitas! Deeply were we stained Per nostra crimina; but Thou hast for us gained coelcrum gaudia. O that we were there!

Ubi sun gaudia, if they be not there? There are angels singing Nova cantica, and there the bells are ringing in regis curis: o that we were there!"

"Shepherds Left Their Flocks"  
(Old German Carol, 14th Century)  

"Shepherds left their flocks astraying, God's command with joy obeying, when they heard the angel saying, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

Wise Men came from far, and saw Him; knelt in homage to adore Him: precious gifts they laid before Him: gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Let us now to every nation sing His praise with exultation, all the world shall find salvation in the birth of Mary's Son."

"Masters In This Hall"  
(French Carol)  

"Masters in this hall, hear ye news today brought from over sea, and ever I you pray: noel, noel, sing we clear! Holpen are all folks on earth, born is God's Son so dear: noel, noel! Noel sing we loud! God today hath poor folk raised and cast adown the proud.

Going o'er the hill, through the milkwhite snow, heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow: shepherds many and one sat among the sheep, no man spake more word than they had been asleep.

Quoth I, 'Fellows mine, why this guise sit ye? Making but dull cheer, shepherds though ye be?' Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing, thus to see ye sit, is a right strange thing. Quoth these fellows then, 'To Bethlehem town we go, to see a mighty Lord lie in manger low'. 'How name ye this Lord, shepherds?' Then said I 'very God'. They said, 'Come from heaven high': this is Christ, the Lord, Masters be ye glad! Christmas is come in and no folk should be sad.'

Noel, noel! Sing we clear. Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's son so dear. Noel, noel! God today hath poor folk raised and cast adown the proud."
SHARING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

We welcome three of the young people of our parish to the Lectern this evening.

George C. White, Jr. is reading the Christmas Story taken from the Gospel of Luke. George, a native New Yorker, and a Freshman at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is home for the holidays. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George C. White, Sr.

Also home for the Christmas holiday is Joanna Delson, a Freshman at Point Park College in Pittsburgh where she is a Dance Major. Joanna, also a native New Yorker and a graduate of the Hewitt School, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morton Delson. Joanna will read the Story of the Wise Men taken from the Gospel of Matthew.

We also welcome Caleb E. White to the Lectern. Caleb, like his brother George, is a native New Yorker and is in his Junior year of High School at the Groton School in Massachusetts. Caleb will read several verses of Scripture as we prepare for the lighting of the candles.

All three young people were confirmed in our Church and all three are graduates of our Church Day School. We've known them a long time. How nice it is to have them home for the Christmas holiday and to have them participating in tonight's Christmas Eve Service!
The lighting for the Christmas Eve Service is most important in setting the proper mood of worship. I'd suggest the following light settings and cues for change.

7 - 8: We'll open the church around 7 and would suggest a low light in the sanctuary ... about 70.

8: When the choir and PC come up for the Call to Worship then the lights get turned up slowly to 80. As PC says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great LIGHT"...start to bring them up at that cue.

They stay at 80 through the early part of the service... about half an hour. If you think it's too bright, bring them down a bit...a soft, warm light is what we like on Christmas Eve.

But people need enough light to read the lines for the hymns.

8:30: Listen out for "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"...that's getting to the next cue. After we sing it, Lee goes to the lectern to read some scripture passages that speak of darkness and light...begin to bring lights down to about 70.

8:40: Around this time, when you start to hear "O Little Town of Bethlehem" you'll know that we're getting near the candle lighting...

After I give the light to the ushers then begin to pull the lights down very SLOWLY...so people aren't even aware.

As the candles of the worshippers are lighted, we bring the lights down to about 35...just a touch of light on the under part of the fixtures shows through.

PC will handle the lights in the chancel next to the organ... and will bring those down slowly and leave some light on the cross...

The choir sings "O Holy Night" in the semi-lighted church.

Then we all sing "Silent Night", semilighted...candle light.

PC does a Christmas Prayer.

Then all sing "Angels We Have Heard on High".

You may have to bring up the lights very slowly to give a bit of light for the people to see...not much...just a touch of light.

9:00 PC gives Benediction from back of Church in candlelight. Bring lights up to 50 at organ postlude for people to see.
INSTRUCTIONS: Ushers, Christmas Eve

SECURITY

Always a concern on Christmas Eve! Watch out. Coats and collection especially are a concern on Christmas Eve. Someone should be in and around the narthex from the time of opening to closing.

CANDLES

Distribute with bulletins as people enter the church.

COLLECTION AND CANDLE-LIGHTING

Four men needed. Take to the Fourth Floor.

CLOSING-UP

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

1. We could have done better with the Christmas decorations in the Russell Room. The trees, secured by Larry Morales, were lovely. However, no lights were found to be placed on them. The room decorations put up on Sunday, the 12th, for the Christmas pageant soon fell apart and were down by the following Sunday, the 19th. Trees should be lighted and kept through the first Sunday of the New Year. Perhaps some red and green paper ribbons would add a festive note to the Russell Room.

2. Christmas table cloths were attractive. PC purchased several of them for the Sunday School party as well as the Christmas Eve fellowship hour. A red cloth for the table in the sanctuary for the candles on Christmas Eve adds a nice feeling in the church.

3. Next year have the Advent Wreath candle holder "built" into the Advent wreath by the florist. It's much sturdier than those little metal holders and where children and candles are together, it's best to go with the sturdier candle holders. We have two of them in the cabinet in the basement organ blower room.

4. Let's try and get a red felt cloth cut to the stand that we use for the Advent Wreath. The splash of red on the chancel steps is lovely.

5. Candles around the Russell Room always look lovely - both for the Sunday School party as well as the Christmas Eve fellowship hour. Perhaps the "down" incandescent lights could have a red covering. And what about Christmas music being played in the Russell Room quietly in the background for the Christmas Eve fellowship hour and maybe even for the coffee hours in Advent. It might be a nice touch.

SERVICES

1. We must continue to be sensitive to the length of our Advent services. Each of the first three Sundays in Advent we have something special in the service. Lighting of the candles and hanging of the red banners, plus a baptism and reception of new members. We also have reports on the Fair and the canvass coming along which is important. One idea would be to let people know that the Advent services usually run to 12:15 rather than 12.

2. More organ music on Christmas Eve in terms of the prelude. Perhaps we should have 20 minutes of it...have Lyndon start playing at 7:40 with
two or three traditional Christmas Eve organ pieces.

3. Do we need to have the offering brought forward to the altar on Christmas Eve? Do we need the Doxology in that service? PC feels it may be breaking the lovely mood that is building. Ushers could take up the offering and then take the offering to the office. Following the anthem at that point, we could move into a Christmas carol.

4. The Christmas Eve fellowship hour was lovely. Holly Flagg's hot punch recipe was quite good. Let's ask Holly for a repeat of this for next Christmas Eve.

5. Attendance at Christmas Eve service was between 235 and 250. Next year it could be the same, if not more coming on Saturday evening. PC would suggest the ushers directing some of the people to the balcony rather than crowd the downstairs.

6. An introit from the balcony on the Sunday before Christmas is lovely. We used "Of the Father's Love Begotten" on that Sunday. Perhaps "O Little Town of Bethlehem" set to the melody of Forest Green might be nice for one of the Sundays in Advent. Perhaps December 11th.

OTHER CONCERNS / A RATING


2. Ushering. B plus. A couple of Sundays the ushers were running late getting here. Should be here at 10:30 on the big Sundays.

3. Lighting on Christmas Eve. Rate it as A. Good coordination between front and back. Well done.

4. Lay Readers. Good, but probably best to go with our strong readers in Advent.

5. Christmas Appeal Letter. Work on it ahead of time and get it out by Monday, December 12th, or Tuesday, the 13th, 1983.

6. And finally: what about changing the hour of service next Christmas, since Christmas comes on a Sunday. What about a two or a three o'clock Sunday afternoon service? It would need much promotion ahead of time.

7. And an added thought: could we do more with our Christmas newspaper announcement? Also, mention of the music. Work ahead on these items.

(Prepared by PC, Wednesday, January 5, 1983)
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But people need enough light to read the lines for the hymns.

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8:40: Around this time, when you start to hear "O Little Town of Bethlehem" you'll know that we're getting near the candle lighting...

After I give the light to the ushers then begin to pull the lights down very SLOWLY...so people aren't even aware.

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CANDLES

Distribute with bulletins as people enter the church.

COLLECTION AND CANDLE-LIGHTING

Four men needed. Take to the Fourth Floor.

CLOSING-UP

LEAD IN TO THE SILENT MEDITATION

INTRODUCTION As the world once again draws still to hear the song of the angels, and to kneel in adoration before the manger of the Christ Child,

Let us - in the warmth and hush of these moments - prepare our hearts expectantly that we may receive the "glad tidings" of this Holy Season.

In quietness, let each pray as the heart may prompt.

PRAYERS Cheer us, O God and Father of us all, through the song of the angels that peace and hope...joy and love may bless all who have gathered here this Holy Night.

We pray not only for ourselves, but also for the needs of others. We would remember those in whose lives there is "little room" for joy and happiness this Christmas.

Let us hold in our prayers this holy night the lost and the lonely of this City:

The bereaved and the broken-hearted.
The homeless and the hungry.
The cold and the lonely.

Make sensitive our hearts to human need.

Let us all pray for peace on earth.

LORD'S PRAYER Grant us, O God, the courage and the compassion of the Christ Child, remembering how as a dynamic man He taught us to pray, saying:

"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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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."
CHRISTMAS EVE GREETINGS (1982)

INTRODUCTION  Few words need to be spoken at this service - for this Service of Carols and Candles is a service in which things are sung that cannot easily be said. It's a service in which the warm light of the candles speaks far more eloquently of the deeper meaning of Christmas than words ever can.

Much of the world now grows still. Tonight Churches are being filled with people for whom Christmas is a matter of the heart and soul. Those events that took place in Bethlehem long ago provide us with the beginning of "The Greatest Story Ever Told". That story has a message in it for all mankind - a message which the world never quite remember, but has never quite forgotten.

It is the message of God's love -- the hope and promise of "peace on earth, good will toward men".

MERRY CHRISTMAS  It is our hope that as you share in the singing of the carols and the lighting of the candles...as you worship the Christ Child here in the haunting loveliness of this sanctuary...

It is our hope that the warmth of His Presence and a sense of His guiding Spirit will fill your life with the Christmas lights of peace, hope, joy and love.

A Merry Christmas to all - in the fullest sense of those treasured words.

FELLOWSHIP  Christmas Eve can be a lonely time for many people in this city. And this is why we have a time of informal fellowship planned following the service. Our thanks to those who have made it possible.

You may be alone here in the city. Join with friends here and share in the warmth and cheer of this night. Christmas punch and cookies will be served in the Russell Room downstairs and all are invited.

SHARING  Sharing in tonight's service is Dr. Leland E. Gartrell of the Council of Churches of the City of NY...a member of our Church and one of the leading "ecumenical spirits" of NYC. Also, our thanks to Hilary and Rachel Hayes for serving as candle lighters before the service began.

OFFERING  Christmas is a time of giving as well as a time of receiving, a time of love and warmth. We thank you for the many Christmas gifts already received. Our needs are many. Your support and generosity mean much to us. The ushers will receive the Christmas offering.
LEAD IN TO THE SILENT MEDITATION

INTRODUCTION As the world once again draws still to hear the song of the angels, and to kneel in adoration before the manger of the Christ Child,

Let us - in the warmth and hush of these moments - prepare our hearts that we may receive the "glad tidings" of this Holy Season.

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We would remember especially all those in whose lives there is little room for joy and happiness this Christmas.

Let us hold in our prayers this night the lost and the lonely of this City:

The bereaved and the broken-hearted.
The cold and the homeless.
The hurt and the hungry.

We would pray also for the people of Poland...that they may be strengthened with faith from above to live with renewed uncertainty in this time of national crisis.

Make sensitive our hearts to human need.

Let us pray for peace on earth.

LORD'S PRAYER Grant us the courage and the compassion of the Christ Child, as we pray together the prayer He taught us as a man, saying:

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth
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Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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."
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As the red banners of this Holy Season have reminded us across the weeks of this Advent Season...His coming brings peace...hope...joy...and love...to all mankind.

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The ushers will now receive the Christmas offering in the spirit of Christ who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

I would draw your attention to the center candle in our Advent wreath...there in keeping with the suggestion of our President that a symbolic candle burn this Christmas eve to remind us of friends in Poland facing national uncertainty...loss of freedom and persecution.
SCRIPTURE

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

And God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light! And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness."

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has a light shined."

"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

"For it is God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

"You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

LET US PRAY

"O God of love and the Father of light. The Father of all mankind. The darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of Your Word made flesh.

Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to Your Word, that we may bring life and light to the waiting world.

Be near to those who this night feel pain, and heart-ache and sadness...those whose dreams have been shattered and thrust into the shadows.

For loved ones - no longer with us, but now with you in the great Kingdom of light and whom we remember as part of Christmas past...who saw the light and followed it, we thank You, O God.

Bless the family reunions of these days with much joy and love.

Confirm within us, we pray, the high resolve of these quiet moments. Open our hearts that You may come into our lives and make them new.

We ask these things in the name of Him who was born in a stable, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

NOTE  After this prayer, go back and sit down...we sing 1st and last verse of "O Little Town of Bethlehem"...following the "amen" go to altar and light candle.
LET US PRAY

By way of Bethlehem, lead us, O Lord, to newness of life;
By the innocence of the Christ Child renew our simple trust;
By the tenderness of Mary deliver us from cruelty and hardness of heart;
By the patience of Joseph save us from all rash judgment and ill-tempered action;
By the shepherds' watch open our eyes to the signs of Thy coming;
By the Wise Men's journey keep our searching spirits from fainting;
By the music of the heavenly choir put to shame the clamor of the earth;
By the shining of a star guide our feet into the way of peace.

Lord, show us the way of light and love. We know what we ought to do. Teach us how to do it.

Lord Jesus, come in our world and heal its wounds:

Come into our homes and make them holy;
Come into our work and make it fruitful;
Come into thy Church and save it from falling;
Come into our minds and keep them clear;
Come into our lives and make them good;

Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

O God, as we try to find our way through the world we live in, help us to remember how into our imperfect world thou didst once come - quietly and simply - and how the spirit of Christ comes again and again to us...and through us to other people to save their lives from drudgery and fear, sickness and sin.

O God, let this life be in us this Christmas tide, that in lives that otherwise might be dark there may be glory and peace.

In the spirit of Christ we pray.
The lighting for the Christmas Eve Service is most important in setting the proper mood of worship. I'd suggest the following light settings and cues for change.

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8: When the choir and PC come up for the Call to Worship then the lights get turned up slowly to 80. As PC says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great LIGHT"...start to bring them up at that cue.

They stay at 85 through the early part of the service... about half an hour. If you think it's too bright, bring them down a bit...a soft, warm light is what we like on Christmas Eve.

But people need enough light to read the lines for the hymns.

8:30: Listen out for "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"...that's getting to the next cue. After we sing it, PC goes to the lectern to read some scripture passages that speak of darkness and light...begin to bring lights down to about 70.

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PC will handle the lights in the chancel next to the organ... and will bring those down slowly and leave some light on the cross...

J. T. Knapp sings "O Holy Night" in the semi-lighted church...

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PC does a Christmas Prayer.

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(Old German Carol)

"In dulci Jubilo let us our homage shew; our heart's joy reclineth in praesepio and like a bright star shineth, matris in gremio. Alpha es et O. O Jesu parvule! I yearn for Thee alway! Hear me, I beseech Thee, O puer optime! My prayer let it reach Thee, O puer optime! My prayer let it reach Thee, O princeps gloriae! Trahe me post te!

O Patris caritas, O Natilenitas! Deeply were we stained Per nostra crimina; but Thou hast for us gained coelcrum gaudia. O that we were there!

Ubi sun gaudia, if they be not there? There are angels singing Nova cantica, and there the bells are ringing in regis curis: o that we were there!"

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(French Carol)

"Masters in this hall, hear ye news today brought from over sea, and ever I you pray: noel, noel, sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear: noel, noel! Noel sing we loud! God today hath poor folk raised and cast adown the proud.

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"In dulci Jubilo let us our homage shew; our heart's joy reclineth in praesepio and like a bright star shineth, matris in gremio. Alpha es et O. O Jesu parvule! I yearn for Thee alway! Hear me, I beseech Thee, 0 puer optime! My prayer let it reach Thee, 0 puer optime! My prayer let it reach Thee, 0 princeps gloriae! Trahe me post te!

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WORDS TO CHRISTMAS ANTHEMS (Christmas Eve, December 24, 1981)

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24, 1981

ORDER OF WORSHIP
8 P.M.

ORGAN
"Noel Basque" Benoit

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN NO. 386 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

INVOCATION (seated)

O God, our Father, You have brought us again
to this glad season when we commemorate the birth
of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord: grant that
His spirit may be born anew in our hearts and that
we may joyfully welcome Him to reign over us. Open
our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus
of old; open our lips that we too may sing with
uplifted hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and
on earth, peace and good will toward men." Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***

HYMN NO. 385 "What Child Is This" (seated)


ANTHEM "In dulci jubilo" Rutter

***

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 1 - 12 Page 835

ANTHEM "Shepherds Left Their Flocks" Rutter

CHRISTMAS GREETING

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

ANTHEM "Masters In This Hall" French Carol

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY No. 809

HYMN NO. 388 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

SCRIPTURE Genesis 1: 1 - 3; Isaiah 9: 2;
John 1: 4 - 5; 8: 12; Matthew 5: 14 - 16

PRAYER

HYMN NO. 381 "O Little Town of Bethlehem (seated)

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The minister will light his candle from the can­
dles on the altar, and will in turn light the
chandeliers of the ushers. The ushers will then
light the candle of the worshipper in each pew
next to the aisle. Each person is asked to light
the candle of the person sitting next to him. It
is suggested that the candles be extinguished at
the end of the service as the worshipper departs
from the sanctuary.

SOLO "O Holy Night" Adam

(J. T. Knapp, Baritone)

HYMN NO. 393 "Silent Night, Holy Night" (seated)

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

HYMN NO. 374 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION (seated)

ORGAN "Lo, How a Rose" Brahms

*** Interval for Ushering

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Miss Frisbee, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Flagg and Ms. Molt.
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289-6997

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CHURCH SECRETARIES
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Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth peace
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
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SILENT MEDITATION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 1 - 12 Page 835
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Mr. Abdo Alnahan
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24, 1981
ORDER OF WORSHIP
8 P.M.

ORGAN
"Noel Basque" Benoit

CALL TO WORSHIP
HYMN NO. 386 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

INVOCATION (seated)
O God, our Father, You have brought us again to this glad season when we commemorate the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord: grant that His spirit may be born anew in our hearts and that we may joyfully welcome Him to reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old; open our lips that we too may sing with uplifted hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will toward men." Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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HYMN NO. 385 "What Child Is This" (seated)
ANTHEM "In dulci jubilo" Rutter
***

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 1 - 12 Page 835
ANTHEM "Shepherds Left Their Flocks" Rutter

CHRISTMAS GREETING

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

ANTHEM "Masters In This Hall" French Carol

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY No. 809

HYMN NO. 388 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"
SCRIPTURE Genesis 1: 1 - 3; Isaiah 9: 2;
John 1: 4 - 5; 8: 12; Matthew 5: 14 - 16

HYMN NO. 381 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (seated)

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
The minister will light his candle from the candles on the altar, and will in turn light the candles of the ushers. The ushers will then light the candle of the worshipper in each pew next to the aisle. Each person is asked to light the candle of the person sitting next to him. It is suggested that the candles be extinguished at the end of the service as the worshipper departs from the sanctuary.

SOLO "O Holy Night" Adam
(J. T. Knapp, Baritone)

HYMN NO. 393 "Silent Night, Holy Night" (seated)

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

HYMN NO. 374 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION (seated)

ORGAN "Lo, How a Rose" Brahms

*** Interval for Ushering

*****

WELCOME AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

We welcome you to this Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candles. To the members and friends of the Church and also to the visitors from our neighborhood who have joined us this evening go our wishes for a very Merry Christmas. Peace. Hope. Joy. Love.

AN INVITATION

Christmas refreshments will be served in the Russell Room downstairs following the service. We invite you to share in these moments of Christmas warmth and cheer made possible for us this evening by Mrs. Monge, Mrs. Delson, Miss Frisbee, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Flagg and Ms. Molt.
PARK AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
106 East 86th Street
New York, N.Y. 10028
289-6997

MINISTER
Rev. Philip A. C. Clarke

ORGANIST-CHOIR DIRECTOR
Mr. Lyndon Woodside

CHURCH SECRETARIES
Miss Anna-Liisa Rintala
Mrs. Stephen F. Cohen

DAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Mrs. Judith Keisman

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