

ANTHEM “El Nacimiento” (“The Birth”)
from *Navidad Nuestra* (“The Nativity”) Ariel Ramirez
Sarah Dunn, soprano

“El Nacimiento”

*Night foretold, night of love, Christ is born.
The petal and the flower are surrounded by serene quiet.
Peace to all people, it is Christmas,
there in the manger lies the redeemer of my soul.
He is the messenger of peace and love.
His smile radiates light and in his tiny arms grows the cross.
Angels sing at the portal. Christ is born.*

Response:

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and
voice; Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and
voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for
this; He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forever
more.*

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

***THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS**

***CAROL (See Insert)** “Silent Night” *Stille Nacht*
Sarah Dunn, soprano, Esperanza Tannehill, mezzo-soprano

***A CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

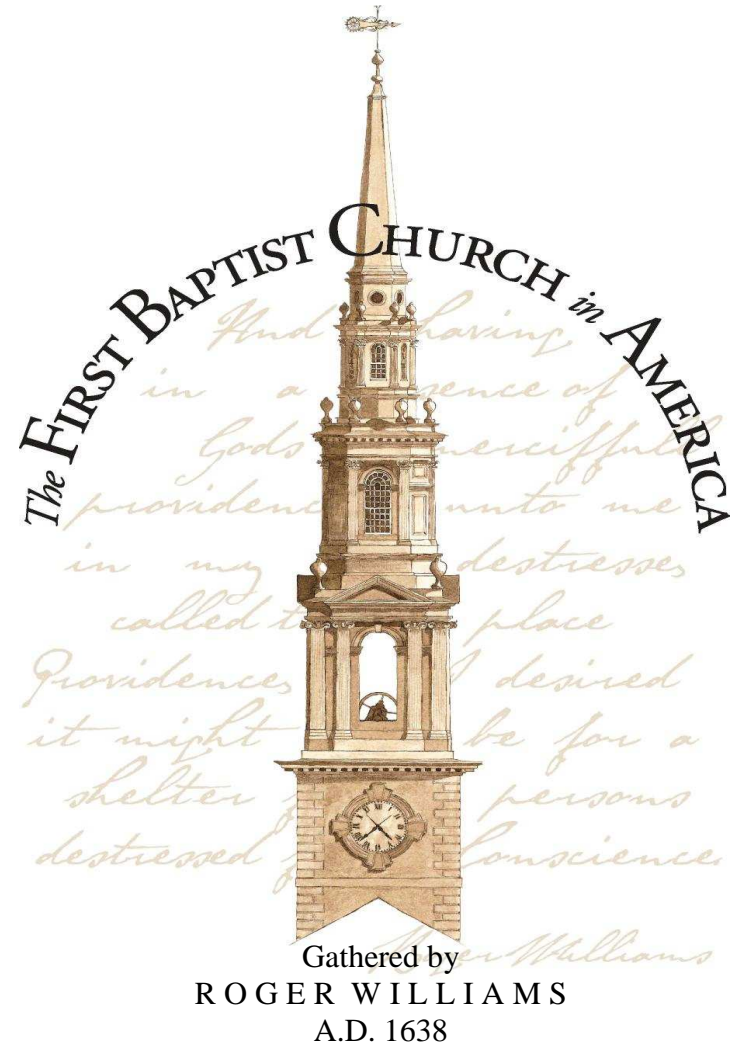
Leader: *Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will
come to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!*

People: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among
all people!*

***RINGING OF THE BELLS** “Joy to the World” *Antioch*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation on Christmas Carols



PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2014
Eight O’Clock in the Evening

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

PRELUDES

Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP (from John 1: 1-5)

Leader: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

People: *He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.*

Leader: *What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

ALL: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it!

*CAROL #173 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *Adeste fidelis*

*INVOCATION (Unison)

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas Eve. Grant that gift of peace and good will to this world. Fill us with a deep joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. In the beauty and silence of this night, magnify your love within us, and prepare our hearts to receive the Christ child once again....[silent meditation]...

Choir Response:

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our Lord to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader #1: We have waited with hope for God to bring justice and righteousness.

Reader #2: We have waited with peace for God's shalom to be felt.

Reader #1: We have waited with love, awed by how God has shown love to us.

Reader #2: Tonight we light this Christ candle to celebrate the light God has sent into the world in the birth of Jesus.

[The Christ candle is lit.]

ALL: O God of hope, peace, joy, and love; from that stable so long ago your light shines out into every corner of the world. Help us to sing with the angels at the joy of your coming. Help us to live by your light not only tonight, but throughout the whole year, so that tidings of peace and good will to all will truly transform the world. Amen.

ALL (Singing): O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE Lawrence Wilson

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Luke 2: 1-20

ANTHEM Comfort ye, my people (Isaiah 40: 1-3)
Every valley shall be exalted (Isaiah 40: 4)
And the glory of the Lord (Isaiah 40: 5)
from *Messiah* George Frederick Handel
Samuel Brunner, tenor

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION Thomas R. McKibbens

"Everywhere, Everywhere, Christmas Tonight"

CAROL (see insert) "O Holy Night" *Cantique de Noël*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER Ruth Marris Macaulay

OFFERING

[Tonight's offering will go to SPNM Heating Assistance]