



CHRISTMAS 2024

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

Christmas Eve is a special time here at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. This is our 100th Christmas as a congregation, and “Doves of Peachtree Road” fill our sanctuary to remind us of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our sanctuary has never been more beautiful. The lights on our tree shine brightly, and we have good news about Jesus Christ to share with everyone in both word and song. We are excited to share in the wonder of Christmas with you.

On this night, we remember the story of wise men who traveled from the East to pay homage to Jesus and presented him with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This gesture has given rise to our tradition of giving gifts at this time of the year in honor of Christ. As a result, giving is at the heart of the joy of Christmas.

You have the opportunity to participate in that tradition by giving the gift of life to thousands of people. This year’s Christmas Eve offering will be used to purchase water filters for families living in the Kiamaina region of Kenya. The only source of water for in this region is a river into which raw sewage is dumped daily. Children especially are suffering and dying in this region at an alarming rate because of the dirty water, and their parents cannot do anything to prevent it. But there is something you can do – this Christmas you can make it possible for them to have access to the life-giving clean water they need!

Our goal this year is to partner with Start with One Kenya to raise enough money to buy a water filter for 8,000 households living in that area. The price of each filter (which has a life expectancy of 10 years) is \$50, so we are participating in an effort to raise \$400,000 (our part of that goal is \$200,000). If every person worshipping with us this Christmas Eve buys at least one water filter, we can attain that goal. I can think of no better way to honor Christ on this holy night than to give the gift of life.

Please make your check payable to Peachtree Road and mark it for “Water Filters.” You also may place your cash or check in the envelope found in this program or give online through the church app or the church’s website (www.prumc.org). Thank you in advance for your gift.

On this Christmas Eve, we light candles in the midst of a dark world and remember the promise: “Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.” Please join us in spreading the light of Christ everywhere.

Merry Christmas!



Rev. Bill Britt
Senior Minister

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2024

THE FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS
ELEVEN O'CLOCK

PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3180 PEACHTREE ROAD, N.E., ATLANTA, GEORGIA
TELEPHONE 404-266-2373
REV. BILL BRITT, SENIOR MINISTER

CARILLON PRELUDE

O come, O come, Emmanuel..... 13th Century Plainsong
Lo, how a rose e're blooming..... 16th Century Melody
Sally Westmoreland

THE GREETING

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

Variations Sur un Noël Marcel Dupré
Theme (1886-1971)
Variation I
Variation III

Jonathan Easter, *organist*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all people;
People: For unto us is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who established a new covenant through his son
Jesus Christ.
People: We worship in spirit and in truth.

*THE CAROL OF PRAISE, 234:

O Come, All Ye Faithful Tune: *Adeste Fideles*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. 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;
<i>Refrain</i>
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.</p> | <p>2. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest;
<i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3. 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;
<i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|--|

John F. Wade
(1711-1786)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious God, we have gathered in this beautiful place once again to celebrate the presence of your Son in our midst. His glorious arrival is enough to make all of creation sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. The light of your salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt. Your gift of love is big enough for the whole world, yet we confess that there are times when we are resentful that your grace is extended to those whom we deem unworthy. O Lord, forgive us. On this Holy Christmas Eve, help us to find the courage to believe in your forgiving grace and to make a new beginning in our lives.

Hear the good news: God's love knows no bounds. God loves you with a love so deep and so profound that nothing will ever be the same again. Know that this love is come for you -- to touch you, to heal you, to forgive you, and to make you whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

What child is this? English Carol

Juliana Bolaño, *soloist*

*THE CAROL, 238:

Angels We Have Heard on High Tune: *Gloria*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
<i>Refrain</i>
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</p> <p>2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
<i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing:
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn
King.
<i>Refrain</i></p> <p>4. See Him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.
<i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|--|

Traditional French Carol

*THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,

MOTET Veni Emmanuel
(Fifteenth Century)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Juliana Bolaño, *soloist*

† *During the singing of the carol, Thomas, Ansley, Mason, Hardy, and Addie Forsberg will come forward to light the Christ Candle.*

INVITATION TO GIVE Rev. Elizabeth Byrd

AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

THE CAROL:

See amid the winter's snow John Goss
arr. David Willcocks

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below;
See the tender Lamb appears, promis'd from eternal years:
Refrain

Hail, thou everblessed morn; Hail, redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim:
Refrain

Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?
Refrain

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, by thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble thee, in thy sweet humility:
Refrain

Edward Caswall
(1814-1878)

The Choir

*AT THE PRESENTATION, Hymn 95:

Doxology Tune: *Old Hundredth*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Your people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

† The people sit.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. We rejoice as your people, for to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. His name shall be called “Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” He was born to give himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify us for good deeds. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

O Little Town of BethlehemTune: *St. Louis*

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.

Phillips Brooks

Hark! The Herald Angels SingTune: *Mendelssohn*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies, with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Luke 2:8-14

What Child is ThisTune: *Greensleeves*

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Luke 2:6-20

Matthew 2:1-12

Away in a Manger.....*James R. Murray, 1887*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Luke 2:7

It Came Upon the Midnight ClearTune: *Carol*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold; "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious king." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Luke 2:8-14

The First NoelTraditional English Carol

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Luke 2:8-14

Matthew 2:1-12

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Minister and People*

Almighty God, we thank you for this holy place, for bringing us together at your table, surrounded by your love. We thank you for this holy meal, for asking us to taste and see how much Jesus loves us. We thank you for this holy night, for the glad songs we sing and the gifts of love we receive. Help us to give ourselves in love and joy. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

THE CAROL, 239:

Silent Night, Holy Night..... Tune: *Stille Nacht*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. S ilent 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. | 3. 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. |
| 2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born! | 4. 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! |

Joseph Mohr
(1792-1848)

THE SOLO:

O Holy Night..... Adolphe Adam
(1803-1856)

Juliana Bolaño, *soloist*

† Please join the soloist on refrain:

Fall on your knees. Oh hear the angel voices. O night divine.
O night when Christ was born, O night divine! O night, O night divine.

* THE CAROL 246:

Joy to the World..... Tune: *Antioch*

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 all 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, wonders of
His love.

Isaac Watts
(1674-1748)

*THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

† Following the blessing, please extinguish your candles.

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella. Keith Chapman
(1945-1989)

Scott H. Atchison, *organist*

* Those who are able, please stand.

MUSIC FOR THIS FESTIVAL SERVICE
is provided by the
The Christmas Eve Volunteer Choir.

WORSHIP LEADERS

PREACHING

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

CO-CELEBRANTS

Rev. Elizabeth Byrd, *Associate Minister*

Rev. Josh Miles, *Associate Minister*

VERGER

Rev. Leslie Lyons Watkins, *Associate Minister*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Thomas, Ansley, Mason, Hardy, and Addie Forsberg

MUSIC

Scott H. Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*

Jonathan Easter, *Guest Organist*

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2024

FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ... *AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH* FOUR AND SIX O'CLOCK

CARILLON PRELUDE

Nesem vam noviny (Come, all ye shepherds) Anonymous
(circa 1750)

Als ich bei meinen schafern wacht (While by my sheep) Anonymous
(circa 1625)

Ihr kinderlein, kommet (O come, little children) Johann Schulz
(1747-1800)

Sally Westmoreland

THE WELCOME

CAROL AT THE INTROIT

He came down arr. Marty Hagen
(b. 1950)

He came down that we may have hope, peace, joy, and love. Alleluia forevermore.

(4:00 pm) The Cherub Choir

Lauren Langley, Zac Dees, Austin Dees, *percussion*

Get ready Nancy Raabe
(b. 1954)

Get ready for the sweet baby boy! Get ready for Jesus. He comes to bring us happiness, peace and joy. High in the sky, the star will show us the way. Follow and it will lead to the glory of a brand new day.

(6:00 pm) The Covenant Choir

Caroline Morris, Kate Lowery, *soloists*

*THE CAROL FOR JOYFUL PROCESSION, Hymn 234:

O Come, All Ye Faithful Tune: *Adeste Fideles*

1. **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;

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.

2. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest;

Refrain

3. 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;

Refrain

John F. Wade
(1711-1786)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious God, we have gathered in this beautiful place once again to celebrate the presence of your Son in our midst. His glorious arrival is enough to make all of creation sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. The light of your salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt. Your gift of love is big enough for the whole world, yet we confess that there are times when we are resentful that your grace is extended to those whom we deem unworthy. O Lord, forgive us. On this Holy Christmas Eve, help us to find the courage to believe in your forgiving grace and to make a new beginning in our lives.

Hear the good news: God's love knows no bounds. God loves you with a love so deep and so profound that nothing will ever be the same again. Know that this love is come for you -- to touch you, to heal you, to forgive you, and to make you whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

† The people sit.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

THE CAROL:

(4:00 pm) *The Angel Band*..... Spiritual

There were one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten little angels in that band. Oh, wasn't that a band, Christmas morning soon.

The Cherub Choir

(6:00 pm) *I saw three ships* Craig Curry

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning. And all the bells on earth shall ring and all the angels in heaven shall sing and all the souls on earth shall sing. Then let us all rejoice again on Christmas day the morning.

The Celebration Singers

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,

MOTET Veni Emmanuel
(Fifteenth Century)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

William Green, *soloist*

† *During the singing of the carol, Raphael, Kaylee, Ezeqiel, and Elessio Sartorato (4:00pm)*

Frank, Nancy, Meredith, and Ryan Glover (6:00 pm)

will come forward to light the Christ Candle.

INVITATION TO GIVE Clint Smith

AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

(4:00 pm) *Variations Sur un Noël* Marcel Dupré

Theme (1886-1971)

Variation I

Variation VI

Jonathan Easter, *organ*

(6:00 pm) *Advent Prayer* Randy Edwards

(Twentieth Century)

Hope, peace, joy and love! These are the gifts you bring from above, Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be light of your hope, reflected in me. Amen.

*AT THE PRESENTATION:

Angels We Have Heard on High Tune: *Gloria*

1. **A**ngels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

4. See Him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend you aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Traditional French Carol

† *The people sit.*

THE LIVING NATIVITY

THE JOURNEY TO THE MANGER

THE CAROL, 250:

Once in Royal David's City Tune: *Irby*

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

Cecil Frances Alexander

THE STABLE ANIMALS

THE CAROL, 227:

The Friendly Beasts Medieval French Melody

Jesus our brother, strong and good, was humbly born in a stable rude, and the friendly beasts
around Him stood, Jesus, our brother, strong and good.

Anonymous

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

THE CAROL, 245:

The First Noel Traditional English Carol

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Luke 2:8-14

Matthew 2:1-12

WORSHIPPING THE CHRIST CHILD

THE CAROL, 254:

We Three Kings Tune: *Kings of Orient*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and
mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

John H. Hopkins, Jr.

THE CAROL, 230:

O Little Town of Bethlehem Tune: *St. Louis*

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.

Phillips Brooks

THE TRADITION OF THE CANDLE LIGHTING Mari Brooks Morris (4:00 pm)

Lily Mack Brady (6:00 pm)

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

THE CAROL, 239:

Silent Night, Holy Night..... Tune: *Stille Nacht*

1. **S**ilent 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.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

3. 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.

4. 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!

Joseph Mohr
(1792-1848)

THE SOLO:

O Holy Night..... Adolphe Adam

(1803-1856)

William Green, *soloist*

† *Please join the soloist on refrain:*

Fall on your knees. Oh hear the angel voices. O night divine.
O night when Christ was born, O night divine! O night, O night divine.

Joseph Mohr

*THE CAROL, 246:

Joy to the World..... Tune: *Antioch*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns.
 Let all their songs employ.
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p>3. 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.</p> <p>4. 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, wonders of His love.</p> |
|--|--|

Isaac Watts
(1674-1748)

*THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella Keith Chapman

(1945-1989)

(4:00 pm) Jonathan Easter, *organist*
(6:00 pm) Scott H. Atchison, *organist*

*Those who are able, please stand.

MUSIC FOR THESE FESTIVAL SERVICES

(4:00 pm)

The Cherub Choir

(6:00 pm)

The Covenant Choir, Celebration Singers

WORSHIP LEADERS

PREACHING

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

LITURGISTS

Rebecca Kennedy, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Beth Spencer, *Director of Volunteer Service and Local Outreach*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

(4:00 pm) Raphael, Kaylee, Ezeqiel, and Elessio Sartorato

(6:00 pm) Frank, Nancy, Meredith, and Ryan Glover

MUSIC

Scott H. Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*

Jonathan Easter, *Guest Organist*

Kathy Fletcher, *Director of Youth and Children's Music*

Dr. Robin Hensley, *Assistant Organist*

THE LIVING NATIVITY

4:00 pm

The Living Nativity Readers – Alice Blackmon, Charles Covington, Jack Grant, William Moore,
Mari Brooks Morris, Ellie Smith

Mary – Ella Floss

Joseph – Dayton Mucha

Baby Jesus – Charlotte Guffin

Shepherds – Hayes Alderman, Henry Alderman, Mercer Amy, Milledge Anderson, Robert Bishop,
McLean Brooks, Watts Childers, William Childers, Lanier Clay, Boyd Grace, James Harmon,
John Huffman, Leo Hyde, Ian Jowers, Will Oppenheimer, Fletcher Rapp, Joe Ratterree, Benjamin Reeves,
Davis Rivest, Reed Rivest, Wesley Robinson, Will Sartain, Brother Smith

Angels – Margaret Amy, Emery Anderson, Reagan Arnold, Quinn Bennett, Birdie Blackmon,
Caroline Childs, Anna Costlow, AvAlyn Duckett, Sarah Crenshaw Grace, Cate Harmon,
Charlotte Hitchcock, Jane Kirbo, Constance Kucharz, Georgiana Kucharz, Milly Kate Miller,
Reagan Miller, Adelaide Milton, Sally Kate Robinson, Sutton Sartain, Annie Shroyer, Connor Smith,
Mary Margaret Woolfolk

Sheep – India Jowers, Sutton Oppenheimer, Anna Rapp, Evie Rivest, Wynn Wilson

Inn Keeper – Beckman Brooks

Wise Men – Bowen Alderman, Thomas Anderson, Walker Clay

The Tradition of the Candle Lighting – Mari Brooks Morris

THE LIVING NATIVITY

6:00 pm

The Living Nativity Readers – Sallie Cox, Lily Mack Brady, Blythe Stowell, Andrew Sipp, Reynolds Walker,
George Nunn

Mary – Katelyn Nixon

Joseph – Drew Pannell

Baby Jesus – Claire Brady

Shepherds – Benjamin Hargraves, Grimes Hillegass, Daniel Kennedy, Thomas Patton,
Luke Lockett, Sam Richwine, Miller Smith, Wes Stahel, Jackson Staner

Angels – Elizabeth Connell, Maggie Fagan, Emerson Fleming, Hollis Fleming, Lowery Gravlee,
Meyer Gravlee, GraCe Hillegass, Camille Holbrook, Hallie Holbrook, Lucy Kennedy, Birdie Mills,
Murray Mills, Emery Oakley, Margaret Richwine, Ada Claire Shirley, Reese Stowell

Sheep – Harben Brady, Lucy Gravlee, Brooks Hillegass, Grace Stahel

Inn Keeper – Sam Richwine

Wise Men – William Brady, Hodgens Smith, Townsend Walker

The Tradition of the Candle Lighting – Lily Mack Brady

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2024

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
EIGHT O'CLOCK

CARILLON PRELUDE

Ding! dong! merrily on high arr. David Christensen
(Twentieth Century)

Sing we now of Christmas French Carol

Il est né (He is born) French Carol

THE PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS (7:45 pm)

Variations Sur un Noël Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

Theme

Fugato, Variation X

Presto, Variation XI

Jonathan Easter, *organist*

Renaissance Dances from 'The Danserye' Tylman Susato

La Mourisque

(c. 1500-c.1560)

Bransle Quatre Bransles

Ronde

Ronde-Mon Amy

Basse Danse Bergeret

The Atlanta Brassworks

THE WELCOME

THE INTROIT

Carol of the bells M. Leontovich
arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

Hark how the bells; sweet silver bells, all seem to say "throw cares away". Christmas is here bringing good cheer to young and old, meek and the bold. That is their song, with joyful ring, all caroling. Hark to the bells, high sounding bells, joyfully ring, born is the King. Oh how they pound, raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale, gayly they ring, while people sing songs of good cheer, Christmas is here. Merry Christmas! On they send, on without end their joyful tone to every home. Born is the King.

Doxology Youth Choir and Alumni

THE CALL TO WORSHIP:

Minister:

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity within the Church He came to build, and especially in this our parish.

And because this would rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

*AT THE GREAT PROCESSION, CAROL 234:

O Come, All Ye Faithful Tune: *Adeste Fideles*

1. **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;

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.

2. True God of true God,
Light from Light Eternal,
lo! He shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten
not created;

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest;

Refrain

4. See how the shepherds,
summoned to His cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

5. Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace Thee with love and awe.
Who would not love Thee,
loving us so dearly?

Refrain

6. 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;

Refrain

John F. Wade
(1711-1786)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious God, we have gathered in this beautiful place once again to celebrate the presence of your Son in our midst. His glorious arrival is enough to make all of creation sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. The light of your salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt. Your gift of love is big enough for the whole world, yet we confess that there are times when we are resentful that your grace is extended to those whom we deem unworthy. O Lord, forgive us. On this Holy Christmas Eve, help us to find the courage to believe in your forgiving grace and to make a new beginning in our lives.

Hear the good news: God's love knows no bounds. God loves you with a love so deep and so profound that nothing will ever be the same again. Know that this love is come for you -- to touch you, to heal you, to forgive you, and to make you whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

† *The people sit.*

INVITATION TO GIVE Kyle Jenks

AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

THE ANTHEM:

A babe is born..... William Mathias
(1934-1992)

A babe is born all of a may, to bring salvation unto us. To him we sing both night and day. *Veni Creator Spiritus*. At Bethlehem, that blessed place, the child of bliss now born he was; and him to serve God give us grace, *O lux beata Trinitas*. There came three kings out of the East, to worship the King that is so free, with gold and myrrh and frankincense, *A solis ortus cardine*. The angels came down with one cry, a fair song that night sung they in worship of that child: *Gloria tibi Domine. Noel!*

15th century, anonymous

The Chancel Choir
Doxology Youth Choir

*AT THE PRESENTATION:

Doxology with Alleluias..... Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† *The people sit.*

PART I – THE PROMISE TO ISRAEL

SCRIPTURE: Micah 5:1-5A

PRAYER

Minister: Lord, who does not abandon your own people as we long for a good future, you gave us your hope and promise. In a world where promises are easily and quickly made but where many are not kept, we trust you to be faithful. Lord, we know you keep your promises.

People: Give us anticipation for your coming, Lord. Amen.

THE CAROL, 230:

O Little Town of Bethlehem.....Tune: *St. Louis*

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.

Phillips Brooks

PART II – THE PROMISE TO MARY

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-38

PRAYER

Minister: Lord of life, we are not used to having you break into our smooth routine. Open us and wake us to the possibility that you may speak to us at any time. As often as you speak to us, help us to listen. Help us to be ready for your unexpected entrances, thankful that you, Lord, catch us by surprise.

People: **Surprise us with the future, Lord. Amen.**

THE CAROL, 240:

Hark! The Herald Angels SingTune: *Mendelssohn*
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies, with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Luke 2:8-14

PART III – MARY’S SONG OF PRAISE

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:46-56

PRAYER

Minister: Living Lord, our hearts are overflowing on this night of wonder, full of thanks and praise for all you give us in your holy Son. Like Mary, we are overcome with joy, not sure where this great light will lead us, but eager to follow where the gift may lead. For this, good Lord, we thank and praise you.

People: **Make our lives a celebration of your great and holy gift, Lord. Amen.**

THE ANTHEM:

Nativity Carol..... John Rutter
(b. 1954)

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; born 'neath light of star He who loved us so. Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born on Christmas Day. Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.

Oxford Choral Song

The Chancel Choir

PART IV – THE NIGHT OF WONDER

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-7

PRAYER

Minister: Lord of mystery, in this holy night you have brought heaven down to earth. We see the child there, sleeping quietly, the animals surrounding him, the dusty rafters bending low to greet Him. Lord, we wonder; was it worth the risk to give your only son for us this way? Try as we may, Lord, we do not comprehend the mystery of Jesus' birth.

People: **Implant the love that sent your Son within our hearts, Lord. Amen.**

THE CAROL, 219:

What Child is ThisTune: *Greensleeves*
What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Luke 2:6-20

Matthew 2:1-12

PART V – ANGELS OVER BETHLEHEM

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-14

PRAYER

Minister: Blessed Savior, how could we have missed the angels? In the rush to buy the last things on our list, in the confusion of the parties and the Christmas cards, how could we have missed the bright light of heaven, telling us to set aside the rest of it and focus on the promise from above? Help us with shining eyes to see again, with open hearts to know afresh that with your coming, Lord, your glory fills our world.

People: Help us to see and celebrate it, Lord. Amen.

THE CAROL, 218:

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Tune: *Carol*
It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold; "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious king." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Luke 2:8-14

PART VI – ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:15-20

PRAYER

Minister: King of all creation, we are stunned by your rich gift. Your majesty unfolds before us as a king's rich robes, but we stand dirty in the rags of our unworthiness. Lord, like those poor shepherds, we are not fit to stand in your presence.

People: Let us come before you with humility, Lord. Amen.

THE ANTHEM:

For unto us a Child is born, Messiah. George Frederic Handel
(1685-1759)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

The Chancel Choir

PART VII – THE WORD MADE FLESH

SCRIPTURE: John 1:14

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,

CHOIR MOTET *Veni Emmanuel*
(Fifteenth Century)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† *During the singing of the carol, Mary and Hamilton Williams, Margaret and Philip, Karen Annable come forward to light the Christ Candle.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

THE CAROL, 239:

Silent Night, Holy Night..... Tune: *Stille Nacht*

1. **S**ilent 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.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

3. 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.

4. 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!

Joseph Mohr

THE SOLO:

O Holy Night..... Adolphe Adam
(1803-1856)

Meredith Howard, *soloist*

† *Please join the soloist on refrain:*

Fall on your knees. Oh hear the angel voices. O night divine.
O night when Christ was born, O night divine! O night, O night divine.

*AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION, Hymn 246:

Joy to the World..... Tune: *Antioch*

1. **J**oy 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.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns.
Let all their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. 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.

4. 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, wonders of His love.

Isaac Watts
(1674-1748)

*THE BLESSING

† *Following the blessing, please extinguish your candles.*

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella Keith Chapman
(1945-1989)

Scott H. Atchison, *organist*
The Festival Orchestra

* Those who are able, please stand.

MUSIC FOR THIS FESTIVAL SERVICE
is provided by
Doxology Youth Choir, The Chancel Choir,
and The Festival Orchestra

WORSHIP LEADERS IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

PREACHING

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

LITURGISTS

Rev. Karen Webster Parks, *Executive Pastor*
Rev. Darren Hensley, *Deacon*

VERGER

Rev. Emily Miles, *Associate Minister and Director of Mental Wellness*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Mary and Hamilton Williams, Margaret and Philip, Karen Annable

MUSIC

Scott H. Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*
Jonathan Easter, *Guest Organist*
Kathy Fletcher, *Director of Youth and Children's Music*
Dr. Robin Hensley, *Assistant Organist*

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2024

FESTIVAL CHORAL EUCHARIST

TEN-THIRTY O'CLOCK

THE CARILLON PRELUDE

Ding! dong! merrily on high David Christensen
(Twentieth Century)

Irby (Once in royal David's city)..... Henry Gauntlett
(1805-1876)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the nations, come) Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

THE PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS (10:15 pm)

Variations Sur un Noël Marcel Dupré
Theme (1886-1971)
Fugato, Variation X
Presto, Variation XI

Jonathan Easter, *organist*

Renaissance Dances from 'The Danserye' Tylman Susato
La Mourisque (c. 1500-c.1560)
Bransle Quatre Bransles
Ronde
Ronde-Mon Amy
Basse Danse Bergeret

The Atlanta Brassworks

THE WELCOME

CAROL AT THE INTROIT:

O Magnum Mysterium, Alleluia! Puer Natus Est Nobis..... Nicholas White
(b. 1967)

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Christ. Alleluia.

The Chamber Singers

Juliana Bolaño, *soprano*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP:

Minister:

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity within the Church He came to build, and especially in this our parish.

And because this would rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

*AT THE GREAT PROCESSION, CAROL 234:

O Come, All Ye Faithful Tune: *Adeste Fideles*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. 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;
<i>Refrain</i>
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.</p> <p>2. True God of true God,
Light from Light Eternal,
lo! He shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten
not created;
<i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest;
<i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>4. See how the shepherds,
summoned to His cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;
<i>Refrain</i></p> <p>5. Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee with love and
awe.
Who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
<i>Refrain</i></p> <p>6. 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;
<i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|--|

John F. Wade

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious God, we have gathered in this beautiful place once again to celebrate the presence of your Son in our midst. His glorious arrival is enough to make all of creation sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. The light of your salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt. Your gift of love is big enough for the whole world, yet we confess that there are times when we are resentful that your grace is extended to those whom we deem unworthy. O Lord, forgive us. On this Holy Christmas Eve, help us to find the courage to believe in your forgiving grace and to make a new beginning in our lives.

Hear the good news: God's love knows no bounds. God loves you with a love so deep and so profound that nothing will ever be the same again. Know that this love is come for you -- to touch you, to heal you, to forgive you, and to make you whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

† The people sit.

THE ANTHEM:

Nativity Carol..... John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; born 'neath light of star He who loved us so. Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born on Christmas Day. Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.

Oxford Choral Song

The Chancel Choir

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

The Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE ANTHEM:

For unto us a Child is born, Messiah. George Frederic Handel
(1685-1759)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

The Chancel Choir

† *The people stand.*

*AT THE GOSPEL PROCESSION, 238:

Angels We Have Heard on High Tune: *Gloria*

1. **A**ngels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing:
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

4. See Him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Traditional French Carol

*THE GOSPEL CITATION

Cantor: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

THE READING: Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Liturgist: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

† *The Alleluia is repeated.*

† *The people sit.*

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,

CHOIR MOTET Veni Emmanuel
(Fifteenth Century)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† *During the singing of the carol, Rick and Rhonda Emery come forward to light the Christ Candle.*

INVITATION TO GIVE Rev. Elizabeth Byrd

AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

THE ANTHEM:

A babe is born..... William Mathias
(1934-1992)

A babe is born all of a may, to bring salvation unto us. To him we sing both night and day. *Veni Creator Spiritus*. At Bethlehem, that blessed place, the child of bliss now born he was; and him to serve God give us grace, *O lux beata Trinitas*. There came three kings out of the East, to worship the King that is so free, with gold and myrrh and frankincense, *A solis ortus cardine*. The angels came down with one cry, a fair song that night sung they in worship of that child: *Gloria tibi Domine. Noel!*

15th century, anonymous

The Chancel Choir

*AT THE PRESENTATION:

Doxology with Alleluias Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

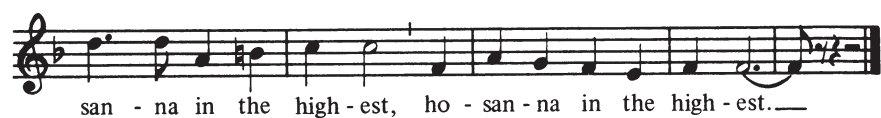
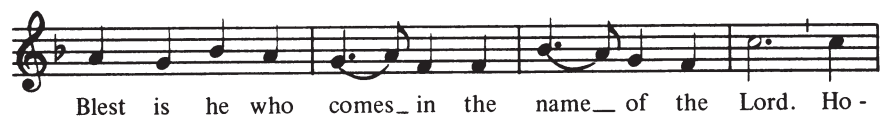
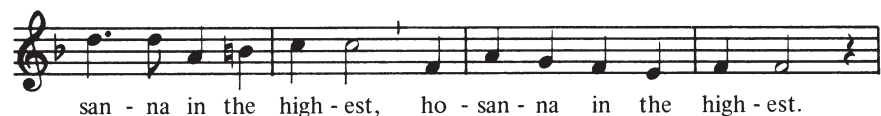
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Your people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



† *The people sit.*

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. We rejoice as your people, for to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. His name shall be called "Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." He was born to give himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify us for good deeds. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE AGNUS DEI

2. *mp*

1.2. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

mf

3. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: grant us peace.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE MOTET:

Recitative: *And suddenly there was with the angel*

Mary Allison Hamby, *soloist*

Chorus: *Glory to God in the highest, Messiah* George Frederic Handel
(1685-1759)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill towards men.

The Chancel Choir

CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS:

O Little Town of BethlehemTune: *St. Louis*

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.

Phillips Brooks

Hark! The Herald Angels SingTune: *Mendelssohn*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies, with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Luke 2:8-14

What Child is ThisTune: *Greensleeves*

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Luke 2:6-20

Matthew 2:1-12

Away in a Manger*James R. Murray, 1887*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Luke 2:7

It Came Upon the Midnight ClearTune: *Carol*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold; "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious king." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Luke 2:8-14

The First NoelTraditional English Carol

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Luke 2:8-14

Matthew 2:1-12

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Minister and People*

Almighty God, we thank you for this holy place, for bringing us together at your table, surrounded by your love. We thank you for this holy meal, for inviting us to taste and see and experience how much Jesus loves us. We thank you for this holy night, for the glad songs we sing and the gifts of love we receive. Help us offer ourselves to others in love and joy. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

THE CAROL, 239:

Silent Night, Holy Night Tune: *Stille Nacht*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. Silent night, holy night,
 shepherds quake at the sight;
 glories stream from heaven afar,
 heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
 Christ the Savior is born,
 Christ the Savior is born!</p> | <p>3. 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.</p> <p>4. 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!</p> |
|--|---|

Joseph Mohr
(1792-1848)

THE SOLO:

O Holy Night.....Adolphe Adam
(1803-1856)

Meredith Howard, *soloist*

† *Please join the soloist on refrain:*

Fall on your knees. Oh hear the angel voices. O night divine.
O night when Christ was born, O night divine! O night, O night divine.

† *The people stand.*

*AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION, Hymn 246:

Joy to the World.....Tune: *Antioch*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns.
 Let all their songs employ.
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p>3. 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.</p> <p>4. 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, wonders of His love.</p> |
|--|--|

Isaac Watts
(1674-1748)

*THE BLESSING

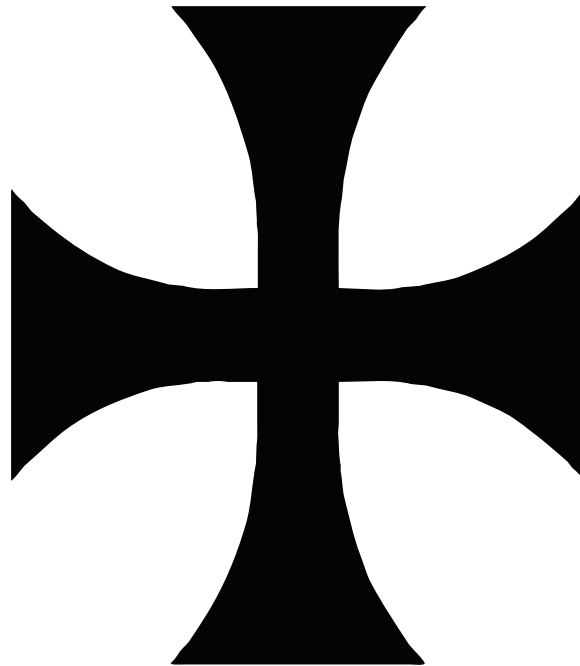
† Following the blessing, please extinguish your candles.

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella Keith Chapman
(1945-1989)

Scott H. Atchison, *organist*
The Festival Orchestra

* Those who are able, please stand.



MUSIC FOR THIS FESTIVAL SERVICE

The Chancel Choir, The Chamber Singers,
and The Festival Orchestra

THE ORDINARY OF THE MASS for this evening's service is **A Community Mass** by Richard Proulx.

WORSHIP LEADERS IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

PREACHING

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

CO-CELEBRANTS

Rev. Leslie Lyons Watkins, *Associate Minister*

Rev. Geoff Beakley, *Associate Minister*

VERGER

Rev. Josh Miles, *Associate Minister*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rick and Rhonda Emery

MUSIC

Scott H. Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*

Jonathan Easter, *Guest Organist*

WELCOME, AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thank you for worshipping with us today! We are grateful for your presence during this wonderful season. As we look forward to a new year at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, we invite you to participate in our worship, program and service life here at the church. Our hope is to make a warm, caring community that you can call home.

Our **Sunday worship services** take place at 8:45, 10:00 and 11:15 am.

We also offer a Midweek service each Wednesday at noon.

Childcare is available in our Nursery for children ages 6 weeks to 2 years each Sunday.

We have **Sunday School** programs designed especially for children & youth.

Education for adults is held at 10:00 am each Sunday. Ambassadors are available to help you find a class or you may contact Rev. Elizabeth Byrd at elizabethb@prumc.org.

LET US KNOW YOU ARE WITH US

We are glad you are with us today! Please check in to help us keep in touch with our faith community. Sign in using the red pads in your pew, scan the QR codes here, or check in with one click on the PRUMC App. Thank you! We hope you will join us again in the coming year.

Guest Check-in



Member Check-in



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT

Joining the church - please contact Brittany Charron at brittanyc@prumc.org.

Outreach opportunities - please contact Beth Spencer at beths@prumc.org.

Joining a choir - please contact Scott Atchison at scotta@prumc.org.

Prayer ministry - please contact Rev. Josh Miles at joshm@prumc.org.

Learn about our **Preschool** at thepreschool.org, and our **Sports and Recreation** programs at prumcsports.org.



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