



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Christmas Eve Service | December 24, 2020

NOTE: For this Service of Communion and Candlelight, you may want to have some bread or crackers and some kind of juice ready and an age appropriate candle to light. Also, if you are listening without viewing, there are moments of silence as a candles are lit.

PRELUDE *Joy to the World* arr. Patricia A. Cota
Lynn Auman, Ken Curry, Chad Hammer, Gail Thomas, Laura Viau,
musicians and liturgists; Steve Wingfield, camera person

CALL TO WORSHIP/LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Jim & Sarah, Betsy & Powell Braddock, liturgists
(*All speak words in **boldface.***)

As the light on our Advent Wreath grew, Mary's Song of Praise reminded us:

God's love saves and includes. ☩

God's peace shows mercy on each generation. ☩

God's hope strengthens and raises the lowly. ☩

God's joy fills the hungry with good things. ☩

Our time of waiting comes to an end.

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

With Mary, let all God's people say to our Promise Keeping God:

Holy is your name!

CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

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!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt. TUNE: John Francis Wade, c. 1743, P.D.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Living God, on this holy night we come:
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

Glory and praise be to you forever!

Gracious God, on this holy night,
when we are tempted
to turn away from your good news
or to ignore the power of your story:

Forgive us, Lord.

Wrap us in your peace.

Pull us into the love and power of your story.

Encourage us to both live in—and live out—its good news.

(Silent confession)

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Joy to the World

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.*

(Interlude)

*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.*

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. TUNE: attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836 P.D.

TELLING AND SINGING THE STORY

Lesson: The Words of the Prophets Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol: *Long God's Faithful People Waited* HYFRYDOL

***Long God's faith—ful people wait—ed, searching for the prop—er time;
yearning for— the Lord's appear—ing; watching ever for— a sign.
Through the mists— of time they saw— Him, with the Ho—ly Spir—it's aid;
told—the glo—ry of— His com—ing; He, whom earth— and heaven made.***

Choral ending:

*Praise the Father, praise the Spirit: God of future years and past;
praise to Him who came from heaven when the time had come at last.*

TEXT: K. Lee Scott. MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87 P.D.



Lesson: A Message for Mary Luke 1:26-38

Carol: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ES IST EIN ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

***Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.***

TEXT: German carol; stanzas 1, 2 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt. MUSIC: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599, P.D.



Lesson: The Journey to Bethlehem Luke 2:1-5

Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* 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.***

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868. MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868, P.D.



Lesson:

The Baby is Born

Luke 2:6-7

Trio:

Still, Still, Still

arr. Joey Hoelscher

*Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.
The virgin's tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the child are holding.
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.*

TEXT:Austrian carol P.D.



Anthem:

Peace Child

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, Music: Rob Glover

*In the sleep of the night, in the dark before light you come,
in the silence of stars, in the violence of wars—
Savior, your name.*

*To the road and the storm, to the gun and the bomb you come,
through the hate and the hurt, through the hunger and dirt—
bearing a dream.*

*To our dark and our sleep, to the conflict we reap,
Now come be your dream born alive, held in hope, wrapped in love:
God's true shalom.*

TEXT:Shirley Erena Murray. MUSIC: Rob Glover © 1995 by GIA Publications, Inc.
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Lesson:

The Angels Appear

Luke 2:9-14

Carol:

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt. MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855 P.D



Lesson:

The Shepherds Gather

Luke 2:15-18

Handbells:

Go Tell it on the Mountain

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt TUNE: Gustav Holst, 1906 P.D.



Lesson:

The Magi Bring Gifts

Matthew 2:1-11

Anthem:

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Craig Courtney

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt TUNE: Gustav Holst, 1906 P.D.



SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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Therefore, joining our voices with shepherds, angels,
and with those who sing carols, we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might,
Blest is he who comes to us in the name of God most high.

Heav'n and earth your glo - ry fills. Praise to you, O God on high.
Glad hos - an - nas sing we now, Je - sus Christ, Em - man - u - el.

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o;

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

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With the Magi and the shepherds, we wait, watch, and wonder
and proclaim the mystery of faith:

Lord Je - sus, our Sav-ior, in love we re - call Your pain and your death on the

cross for us all. In death you re - deemed us, in ris - ing you

reign. Lord Je - sus, we look for your com ing a - gain.

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Let us pray the family prayer together, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors' and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking/Pouring

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life
The Drink we pour is the Drink of Love
These are Gifts from God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Shall we eat and drink together?

Prayer

We have broken the bread, we have poured the drink,
we have shared a meal together.

**Even while we remain physically separated,
we have been united in our souls.**

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LIGHTING THE DARKNESS

John 1:1-5, Matthew 5:14-16

This is the light that has entered the world.
This is the word that we carry in our heart:

**Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.**

As we prepare to leave this place, this time of worship
may it be true of each of us,
to the depths of our souls, when we say:

**We have celebrated Christmas with Mary and Joseph.
We have rejoiced with the angels and the shepherds.**

We have celebrated the birth of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

We are graced by the wonder of God's presence

We are filled with the tenderness of Christ love.

We are ready to carry the light and life of God into the world.

Amen.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Carol

Silent Night

STILLE NAUCHT



(The person with the unlit candle tilts it into the lit candle to light it. Lit candles always remain upright.)

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! 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.*

Merry Christmas!

from the staff at Shallotte Presbyterian Church

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Randy Warner, Liturgy and Music Associate and Accompanist;

Kathy Sasso, Church Secretary; **Linda Rowell**, Church Treasurer;

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PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL. ☺