† At the sound of the bells, please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

THE GATHERING

Carillon Prelude

Sally Westmoreland

Opening Voluntary

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645
J. S. Bach
(Sleepers wake! A voice is calling)
(1685-1750)

The Greeting

We welcome each of you to this service! Please register your attendance on the Ritual of Christian Fellowship. Let us know if you are new, would like to become a member or are interested in more information about Peachtree Road. We pray that this time together will be a blessing in your life.

† At the sound of the bells, please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

The Choral Introit

(8:45 am)

Following the star to Bethlehem
Dan R. Edwards
(b. 1951)

Hey ho! Where do we go? Following a shining star that’s leading us onward. Following the star to Bethlehem. The ancient prophets told of a wonderful thing; a glorious star announcing the birth of a King. And so we gladly follow from twilight ‘til dawn to find that special place where the child will be born. The star went on to lead us through desert and plain, across some mighty rivers in sun and in rain. When finally it brought us to Bethlehem town, where in a humble manger there the Lord would be found.

Doxology Youth Chorale

(11:15 am)

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland
Savior of the nations, come; Virgin’s Son here make thy home! Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

At the Procession,*

Hymn 567

Heralds of Christ
George W. Warren, 1894

Invocation*

Ritual of Christian Fellowship*

**

† The people are seated.

The Lighting of The Advent Candle

Choir: 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.
Leader: We come together this morning as a church family in a celebration of hope.
But what do we hope for?
People: As we head towards Christmas, we hope that we can make things perfect for those around us – the perfect card, the perfect gift, the perfect meal.
Leader: Remember. The Light of the World was born in a stable, laid in a feeding trough, and was attended to by field hands. These were messy circumstances, yet it was perfect for Jesus. He was surrounded by all the love two parents could give.
People: This morning we light the Candle of Hope, as we pray for Christ to come into our hearts again.

† The Lighting of the Candle
Leader: Let us pray.
People: Lord, help us move away from our obsession toward perfectionism so that we do not miss out on the hope that only you can bring to us. Amen.
People: (all sing): Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Ministry of Music

Lully, lulla, lullay

Tune: Stuttgart

Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

Lully, lulla, lully, by, by, lully, lullay. O sisters too how many we do for to preserve this day? This poor youngling for whom we sing, thou little tiny Child. Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day. His men of might in his own sight all young children to slay. That woe is me, poor Child for Thee, and ever morn and day. For Thy parting neither say nor sing, by, by lully, lullay.

Traditional Carol

The Chamber Singers
Mary Allison Hamby, soprano

Sacrament of Christian Baptism (11:15 am)

RESPONSE: With God’s help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child (these children), surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit’s sign; with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Reception of New Members (8:45 am)

Ministry Moment

Rev. Carolyn Stephens

Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

At the Gospel Procession,*

Hymn 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square
The Gospel Lesson*  
Luke 1:26-38

† before the reading

Cantor: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.
Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People:  
† following the reading
Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.
People:  
† the Alleluia is repeated.

Sermon  
Hope: Giving up on Perfect

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

At the Offertory,  
† An offering is collected to support the work of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church sharing God’s love with the world.

Prayer*

Anthem  
See amid the winter’s snow  David Ashley White (b. 1944)

See, amid the winter’s snow, born for us on earth below, see the tender lamb appears, promised from eternal years! Lo within a manger He who built the starry skies, He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the Cherubim. Say, ye holy shepherds say: what your joyful news today? Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? “As we watched at dead of night, Lo we saw a wondrous light; angels singing ‘Peace on earth,’ told us of the Saviour’s birth.” Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!

Edward Caswell, 1858

The Chancel Choir

At the Presentation,*  
Hymn 95  
Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

At the Retiring Procession,*  
Hymn 218  
It Came upon the Midnight Clear  Carol

SENDING FORTH

Benediction*

Peace*  
Minister  The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People  And also with you.

Response*  
Tune: Houston

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Choir and Congregation
Closing Voluntary
Toccata on Veni, Emmanuel
Andrew Carter
(b. 1939)

* Stand as you are able.  ** Ushers will seat all those who are waiting.
Please turn off all mobile and electronic devices while in the Sanctuary.

Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available in the Narthex from any member of our usher team.

Following the service, Stephen Ministers are available in the chapel for prayer and support.

Please Welcome to our Church Community This Child Being Baptized Today:
Ryan Samuel Bussey, born January 26, 2018, son of Allie and John Bussey.

The Flowers on the Altar are Given to the Glory of God
In Loving Memory of: Dudley L. Moore, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. Dudley L. Moore, Jr. and Family.
In Loving Memory of: Marian M. Calloway and Alexander W. Calloway by the Calloway family.
In Loving Memory of: Mrs. Cynthia K. Vinson, Mr. and Mrs. Lindner C. Hoefer and Bertha H. Stevens by Peter C. Hoefer.
In Loving Memory of: Kathryn Black of Topsail Beach, North Carolina by Ben Black.
In Loving Memory of: Ann Hailey Epps by Pat, Nita, Patrick, Marion, and Elaine.
In Celebration of the Wedding of: Rebekah Hyte and Joshua Drown.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Linda Schutte at 770.329.2075.

Preaching:  Rev. Bill Britt, Senior Minister
Luke 1:26-38

Liturgists:  Rev. Carolyn Stephens, Associate Minister, Rev. Julie Schendel, Associate Minister, Rev. Jamie Jenkins, Minister of Visitation, Rev. Elizabeth Byrd, Associate Minister, Rev. Darren Hensley, Deacon

Music:  Scott Atchison, Director of Music and Organist, Nicole Marane, Associate Director of Music and Associate Organist, Kathy Fletcher, Director of Youth and Children's Music, Robin Hensley, Music Associate, The Chancel Choir

Lighting the Advent Candles Today:
8:45 am – Stuart and Adrienne Pendley, Will and Mary Katherine
9:00 am – Heath and Megan Washburn, Julianna, Ben and Joshua
11:15 am – Brian and Sunni Ammons, Sydney and Quinn

Holy Communion
Moore Chapel, 9:00 am
Rev. Ron Greer
Director, Pastoral Counseling
Cliff Frierson, Guest Organist

The Road
Heritage Hall, 11:15 am
Rev. Julie Schendel, Associate Minister
Amy Little, Worship Leader

The Many Moods of Christmas
Sanctuary, 5:30 pm
No Sundays@5

For information on upcoming worship services please visit www.prumc.org.
TODAY

Advent Homebound Visitation
Share Christmas cheer with our homebound adults. On Sundays in December, select a member's card from the altar rail. Bring a treat, send a note or make a special visit. Let them know they are not forgotten this time of year.

Water for Kenya Virtual Reality Experience
December 9, 16, & 23, 10:00 am, Grace Hall
This Christmas we'll celebrate becoming part of a global solution of bringing safe water to Africa. Our previous efforts of water filter distribution have significantly and positively impacted almost a quarter of a million people. We'll kick off our 2019 initiative with a new virtual reality experience! Join us today in Grace Hall!

The Many Moods of Christmas
Today, 5:30 pm, Sanctuary
PRUMC Chancel Choir, Georgia Boy Choir, Soloists and Orchestra present PRUMC's Christmas classic! From traditional Christmas hymns to moving new settings of familiar carols, this concert will open your hearts and souls to the miraculous story of Jesus birth. Reception in Grace Hall following the concert. Complimentary tickets available in The Dogwood Shop.

Darden's Delights Pies at The Dogwood Shop
Today, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm, Dogwood
Come stock up on delicious pies for the holidays! The Glass Family, PRUMC members, will have tastings of their "Pies with Purpose." Makes great teacher and holiday gifts!

New Flower Guild Note Cards
Sundays, December 9 & 16, Narthex
The Flower Guild has created several new versions of their note cards in time for Christmas! You can purchase them after the 8:45 & 11:15 am services today and next Sunday.

Advent Devotional: The Wonder of Christmas
Prepare your hearts for Christmas with a special Advent Devotional written by members and staff of Peachtree Road. Daily readings will remind us to "be still, look inward and find wonder." Devotionals are now available in the Dogwood Shop.

WORSHIP

The Longest Night Prayer Service
Sunday, December 23, 5:30 pm, Moore Chapel
Join us for a reflective candlelight service on the longest night of the year. Experience the hope that God intended through the coming of Christ. Rev. Julie Wright preaching.

Christmas Eve Worship Services
Monday, December 24, 2018
Come celebrate this glorious night with us! Our beautiful services will offer meaningful messages and magnificent music. Complimentary childcare for ages 3 and under for 4:00 & 6:00 pm service.

12:00 pm Christmas Service of Holy Communion
A celebration of the Eucharist

4:00 pm Family Candlelight & Pageant
Children's choirs and Christmas pageant with nativity characters

6:00 pm Family Candlelight & Pageant
Children's choirs and Christmas pageant with nativity characters

8:00 pm Festival of Lessons & Carols
PRUMC Chancel Choir and Brass herald in this most Holy Night

10:30 pm Festival Choral Eucharist
PRUMC Chancel Choir and Brass with a celebration of the Eucharist

VOLUNTEER CHOIRS

Carols by Candlelight Volunteer Choir
Sunday, December 16, 5:30 pm, Sanctuary
Celebrate Christmas through your musical talents! We are looking for singers to join us in the Carols by Candlelight Choir. Rehearsals are this Tuesday and Thursday. Contact Nicole Marane at 404.240.8206 or nicolem@prumc.org.

Christmas Eve Volunteer Chorus
Monday, December 24, 12:00 pm, Sanctuary
Sing with the choir at our first Christmas Eve service! We will have one rehearsal in the Music Suite at 11:00 am on the same day. Contact Ruth Sommerville at 404.240.8212 or ruths@prumc.org.
COMMUNITY

The Great Cookie Giveaway!
Help spread love one cookie at a time. We are looking for volunteers to help bake homemade Christmas cookies, package them with an invitation to worship, and deliver them to those working nearby on Christmas Eve. Many opportunities and times are available December 21-24. Sign up at prumc.org/events or email brittanyc@prumc.org.

MUSIC & ARTS

Christmas with The Georgia Boy Choir
Friday, December 14, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary
Saturday, December 15, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary
The Georgia Boy Choir with Orchestra present holiday favorites including their signature piece. Tickets available at georgiaboychoir.org. Use discount code "PRUMC" for 50% off tickets.

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday, December 16, 5:30 pm, Sanctuary
PRUMC Choirs, Peachtree Carillon present a sacred carol sing for the church and community appropriate for all ages. This unique Advent service combines the Australian Carols by Candlelight with the tradition of Lessons and Carols. For childcare (ages 4 and under) email eveningchildcare@prumc.org by Wednesday.

Children & Youth Choirs in Worship
Dec 9  Doxology Chorale in The Road
Dec 16  Doxology Choir in Traditional Worship
Dec 24  Cherub, Carol, Covenant, Celebration, Doxology & alumni on Christmas Eve

LOCAL OUTREACH

Christmas Kindness - Thank You!
Thanks to you, we shared the joy of Christmas with Atlantans who do not have resources to give gifts to their families. This year’s experience was incredible! Our shop was open Dec 1 - 5, and your time and donations successfully brought the hope and joy of Christmas to the working poor of our city. Thank you!

Winter Coat Drive
We are now collecting new or gently used heavy winter coats for men and women for our daily outreach ministry. Large and extra-large sizes are preferred so sweaters can be layered underneath. Also collecting sweaters of all sizes.

EDUCATION

Canticles of Christmas
Mondays, December 10 & 17, 6:30 pm, C104
The Christmas story comes to life in the Gospel of Luke through what is known as the Canticles of Christmas. Join Elizabeth Byrd to read, listen and discuss The Magnificat, Benedictus, Gloria and Nunc Dimittis. RSVP at prumc.org/events.

New Study! Morality, Ethics, and the Bible
Wednesdays, starting January 9, 6:30 pm, C208
Learn what many great thinkers have to say about everyday moral and ethical challenges, how we individually might consider these challenges, and how the Bible speaks to these issues. For more information, contact Julie Schendel at julies@prumc.org.

ADULTS

Holiday Lights of Hope at Hobgood Park
Tuesday, December 11, 4:30 pm departure, $15
Walk through millions of holiday lights and animated displays. Followed by self-pay dinner at Tuscany Italian Restaurant. Proceeds benefit Anna Crawford Children’s Center. RSVP to Julie Wright at 404.240.8203 or juliew@prumc.org.

Wednesday Seasoned Saints
12:00 pm Lunch, 1:00 pm Program, C104
Dec 12  Jesse Tree with Leslie Watkins

Save the Date for Ron Greer Retreat
March 15 & 16, 2019, Legacy Lodge, Lake Lanier
Explore connection and new boundaries as our children move into adulthood. Contact Julie Wright at juliew@prumc.org.

YOUNG ADULTS

Christmas Brunch
Sunday, Dec 16, 10:00 am, Hospitality Suite
Join us for a festive brunch and a Christmas message from Ben Fletcher! RSVP at prumc.org/events.

Young Professionals New Year Kickoff Brunch
Sunday, January 6, 10:00 am, C210
Start 2019 with an inspirational message from Reverend Ron Greer hosted by the Young Professionals Sunday School Class. Contact Leslie Watkins at lesliew@prumc.org.
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Nursery Volunteers Needed Once a Month
8:30 - 10:30 am or 10:30 am - 12:15 pm
Working alongside our Nursery staff, volunteers provide a safe, nurturing environment for our children from birth to age two. Contact Laurie Spivey at 404.240.8255 or lauries@prumc.org.

Teachers Needed
11:15 am, Sunday Opportunities
Please consider joining our team and sharing God's amazing story with our young children. Contact Martha Christopher at 404.240.8243 or marthac@prumc.org.

Drop-In Childcare Open During Holidays
Drop-In Childcare at PRUMC offers flexible, faith-based childcare that includes enrichment and social engagement for children 4 months to 6 years. For more information, contact Michele Ellis at drop-in@prumc.org or visit prumc.org/drop-in. Save the date for: Ornament-Palooza! December 17 - 21, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

THE DOGWOOD

Holiday Shopping at The Dogwood
Sundays, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm | Mondays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm | Wednesdays 9:30 am - 6:30 pm
Come shop our beautiful holiday inventory of gifts with good intention through December 16! For the person who has everything, gift cards are available supporting local and global projects for those in need. Tickets for The Many Moods of Christmas concert can be found here as well!

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Pancake Breakfast!
Sunday, December 16, 9:30 - 11 am, Grace Hall
Come enjoy a hot stack of pancakes served with maple syrup or berry compote, and sausage or bacon. $5/adults, $3 children under 10. Gluten-free options available on this day.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Respite Care Atlanta
Respite Care Atlanta is a safe weekday place for those with mild cognitive impairment. We provide vital interaction for clients and self-care time to caregivers. Respite Care Atlanta is now accepting participant applications. Great volunteers are needed now to make this endeavor happen! Visit www.respitecareatlanta.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings
Mondays, 7:00 am, C210
Discover strength, hope and encouragement through the fellowship of those recovering from alcoholism. Contact Carolyn Stephens at 404.240.8207 or carolyns@prumc.org.

MEN

Habitat for Humanity Brush with Kindness
Saturday, January 26, 2019, 9:00 am, Westside
The Men of Peachtree Road will join together to paint a Habitat for Humanity home. We need 25 volunteers - no materials necessary and lunch will be provided. Please join us for this outreach and fellowship opportunity among the men of Peachtree Road! For more information, contact Geoff Beakley at geoffb@prumc.org.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Holiday Camps
During the winter holidays, PRUMC Sports & Recreation will offer single and multi-day camps for ages 3-14. And don't forget - we are now registering for great winter programs including after-preschool and Youth Rugby. For more information, visit prumcsports.org.