CHRISTMAS 2022

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA
Christmas Eve is a special time here at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, and we are grateful for the opportunity we have to worship together.

On this night, we remember some stargazers who traveled from the East to worship Christ and offer their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Their offering has given rise to our tradition of giving gifts at this time of the year in honor of Christ. This is at the heart of the joy of Christmas.

Since 2015, we have offered gifts in partnership with Start with One Kenya to help purchase water filters for families living in regions of that country who do not have access to clean water. To date, we have helped 145,000 people! Our success has driven us to expand our effort and take on one of the poorest regions of Kenya with the least access to clean water - Njoro. This area is 5 times larger than those we have previously helped, and we are in the midst of an ambitious five-year plan of water filter distribution to the people there.

Tonight our Christmas Eve goal is to raise enough money to buy a water filter for 5,000 households in Njoro. The price of the filter (which will last up to 10 years) is $50, so we are participating in an effort to raise $250,000. And we can do it! If each of you gives at least $50 (one water filter), we will reach that goal and change lives and destinies forever. Please help us give the gift of clean water and good health. Thank you for your generosity.

Now, let us pray. O Lord, on this holy night, we light candles in the midst of a dark world and remember your promise: “Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.” Bless our gifts as we seek to bring the light of Christ everywhere. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Merry Christmas!

Bill

Rev. Bill Britt
Senior Minister
The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve, 2022

The First Communion of Christmas
Twelve 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

Fantasia in G, BWV 572.................................................................J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Oliver G. Brett, 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
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 Lord, we come into your presence with mixed feelings. It is Christmas Eve, and we are filled with anticipation of the joy we will experience. However, we confess that we are worried. We worry that economic inflation could rob us of our financial security; we have health concerns about loved ones that have us worried; and we worry that the divisions in our land have become too deep to bridge. As a result, we confess that we sometimes miss what this season is all about – Emmanuel, God-with-us. Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation and love as we sing our familiar carols. Forgive us for focusing on ourselves and what we need to do instead of on the wonder of Jesus’ birth. Help us to observe the star rising in the night sky, hear angel voices singing praises on high, see shepherds hurrying to a stable to worship, and ponder in our hearts what all this means for the world, for us.

Hear the good news: God’s love knows no bounds. Love comes down at Christmas -- 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, 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
Amy Little, soloist

*THE CAROL, 238:
Angels We Have Heard on High ................................................. Tune: Gloria
1. Angels 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

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.

Amy Little, soloist

† During the singing of the carol, Bill and Susan Thigpen will come forward to light the Christ Candle

INVITATION TO GIVE

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

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 CAROL, 240:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ..............................................................Tune: 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

THE CAROL, 219:

What Child is This ...............................................................Tune: 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

THE CAROL: 217

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

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

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
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 day, 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. 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.

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

Amy Little, 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:

*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, 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

Scott H. Atchison, organist

(1945-1989)

* Those who are able, please stand.
Music for this Festival Service
is provided by the
Christmas Eve Volunteer Choir.

Worship Leaders

Preaching
Rev. Bill Britt, Senior Minister

Liturgists
Rev. Leslie Lyons Watkins, Associate Minister
Rev. Geoff Beakley, Associate Minister
Rev. Julie Wright, Associate Minister
Rev. Jamie Jenkins, Minister of Visitation

Lighting the Advent Candle
Bill and Susan Thigpen

Music
Scott H. Atchison, Director of Music and Organist
Oliver G. Brett, Associate Organist and Choirmaster
The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve, 2022

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

Advent Prayer ........................................................................................................... Randy Edwards
(Twentieth Century)

We noisily stamp our feet, we stamp around and bow so low; we stamp again and clap hands together. O Wise Men, we know where it is that you go; oh please let us go there together. On camels you’ll ride as we walk by your side; the Star shining brightly to guide us. We noisily stamp our feet, we stamp around and bow so low; we stamp again and clap hands together. Now give me your hand as together we stand; come hurry, my sister and brother. Hold hands knit in love, holy love from above; we promise to care for each other. We noisily stamp our feet, we stamp around and bow so low; we stamp, we clap, we stamp and clap together

(6:00 pm) The Covenant Choir
*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, singing 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 Lord, we come into your presence with mixed feelings. It is Christmas Eve, and we are filled with anticipation of the joy we will experience. However, we confess that we are worried. We worry that economic inflation could rob us of our financial security; we have health concerns about loved ones that have us worried; and we worry that the divisions in our land have become too deep to bridge. As a result, we confess that we sometimes miss what this season is all about – Emmanuel, God-with-us. Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation and love as we sing our familiar carols. Forgive us for focusing on ourselves and what we need to do instead of on the wonder of Jesus’ birth. Help us to observe the star rising in the night sky, hear angel voices singing praises on high, see shepherds hurrying to a stable to worship, and ponder in our hearts what all this means for the world, for us.

Hear the good news: God’s love knows no bounds. Love comes down at Christmas -- 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, 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 Friendly Beasts....................................................... arr. Jeff Reeves
(Twentieth Century)

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. “I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown, “I carried His mother uphill and down, I carried His mother to Bethlehem town; I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown. “I,” said the cow, all white and red, “I gave Him my manger for his bed, I gave Him hay to pillow His head; I,” said the cow, all white and red. “I,” said the sheep with curly horn, “I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm, He wore my coat on Christmas morn; I,” said the sheep with curly horn. “I,” said the dove, from the rafters high, “I cooed Him to sleep that he should not cry, we cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I; I,” said the dove, from the rafters high.6 Thus all the beasts, by some good spell, in the stable dark were glad to tell of the gifts they gave Emmanuel, the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

The Cherub Choir
THE CHRISTMAS EVE 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.

Catherine Sherling, soloist (4:00 pm)
William Green, soloist (6:00 pm)
† During the singing of the carol, Malcolm and Sydne Smith, Ellie, Connor, and Brother (4:00 pm) Stephen and Kristin Graham and Olivia (6:00 pm) will come forward to light the Christ Candle

INVITATION TO GIVE

AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

(4:00 pm) Coventry Carol............................................................ arr. Timothy Johnson (b. 1957)

Kristin Gill, flute

(6:00 pm) He came down ............................................................... arr. Marty Hagen (b. 1950)

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

The Celebration Singers
Kristin Gill, Sammie Dees, Austin Dees, percussion
*AT THE PRESENTATION:*

Angels We Have Heard on High ................................................................. Tune: Gloria

1. Angels 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

† 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_

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THE TRADITION OF THE CANDLE LIGHTING ............... Margaret Bailey Blackwood (4:00 pm)

Caroline Courts (6:00 pm)

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THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

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THE CAROL, 239:

_Silent Night, Holy Night_.................................................................Tune: _Stille Nacht_

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.

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)

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THE SOLO:

_O Holy Night_......................................................................................Adolphe Adam

(1803-1856)

Catherine Sherling, _soloist_ (4:00 pm)

William Green, _soloist_ (6:00 pm)

†_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

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.

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 BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

(4:00 pm) Final, Symphony No. 6 in G minor ...................................................... Charles Marie Widor
(1844-1937)

Oliver G. Brett, organist

(6:00 pm) Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella......................................................... Keith Chapman
(1945-1989)

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
Jordan Black, Director of Children’s Ministries
Beth Spencer, Director of Local Outreach and Lay Volunteer Services

Lighting the Christ Candle
(4:00 pm) Malcolm and Sydne Smith, Ellie, Connor, and Brother
(6:00 pm) Stephen and Kristin Graham and Olivia

Music
Scott H. Atchison, Director of Music and Organist
Oliver G. Brett, Associate Organist and Choirmaster
Kathy Fletcher, Director of Youth and Children’s Music
Robin Hensley, Music Associate
Pat Rainey Price, Music Associate
THE LIVING NATIVITY

4:00 pm

The Living Nativity Readers – Margaret Bailey Blackwood, Caroline Dickey, Christian Holmes, Alex Madrigal, Ricky Moreno, Sarah Chase Nunn

Mary – Lena Ellinger
Joseph – William Langley
Baby Jesus – Clara Holmes


Angels – Margaret Amy, Emery Anderson, Reagan Arnold, Alice Blackmon, Anna Borowsky, Julia Borowsky, Carter Caswell, Hannah Davis, Emerson Fleming, Hollis Fleming, Eliza Garrison, Sarah Crenshaw Grace, Cate Harmon, Philip Holmes, Kate Howard, Lucy Kennedy, Connor Smith, Ellie Smith, Ivey Walters


Inn Keeper – Fisher Bond

Wise Men – Baylor Alderman, Jack Garrison, Graham Lumpkin

The Tradition of the Candle Lighting – Margaret Bailey Blackwood

THE LIVING NATIVITY

6:00 pm

The Living Nativity Readers – Abby Chiock, Caroline Courts, James Holder, Liam Holder, Lauren Hudson, William Kiel

Mary – Cecile Charron
Joseph – Matthew Maiellaro
Baby Jesus – Luke Vincent

Shepherds – Thomas Anderson, Charlie Covington, Grayson Hughes, William Moore, Jackson Revell, Sara Kate Revell, Hodgens Smith, Miller Smith, Joe Ratterree, Sam Richwine, Townsend Walker

Angels – Camille Allen, Sarah Allen, Quinn Bennett, Lilly Mack Brady, Caroline Childs, Addison Covington, Avalynn Duckett, Collins Etheridge, Olivia Graham, Mimi Howell, Meredith Hughes, Elizabeth Ingram, Mary Patrick Ingram, Helen Kirbo, Jane Kirbo, Charlotte Kolb, Chelsea Lowery, Kate Lowery, Milly Kate Miller, Reagan Miller, Kennedy Mills, Murray Mills, Ruby Meeks Warner

Sheep – Boyd Grace, Emery Oakley

Inn Keeper – Charlie Ingram

Wise Men – Walker Etheridge, Harrison Miller, William Zimmerman

The Tradition of the Candle Lighting – Caroline Courts
The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve, 2022

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)

*Fantasia in G, BWV 572* ........................................................................ J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Oliver G. Brett, organist

*Renaissance Dances from ‘The Danserye’* ........................................... Tylman Susato (c. 1500-c.1560)

La Mourisque
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 Lord, we come into your presence with mixed feelings. It is Christmas Eve, and we are filled with anticipation of the joy we will experience. However, we confess that we are worried. We worry that economic inflation could rob us of our financial security; we have health concerns about loved ones that have us worried; and we worry that the divisions in our land have become too deep to bridge. As a result, we confess that we sometimes miss what this season is all about – Emmanuel, God-with-us. Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation and love as we sing our familiar carols. Forgive us for focusing on ourselves and what we need to do instead of on the wonder of Jesus’ birth. Help us to observe the star rising in the night sky, hear angel voices singing praises on high, see shepherds hurrying to a stable to worship, and ponder in our hearts what all this means for the world, for us.

Hear the good news: God’s love knows no bounds. Love comes down at Christmas -- 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, 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

AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

THE ANTHEM:

Welcome all wonders .................................................................Richard Dirksen
(1921-2003)

Welcome all wonders in one sight! Eternity shut in a span. Summer in winter, day in
might, heaven in earth, and God in man. That He, the old Eternal Word, should be a
Child and weep. Each of us his lamb will bring, each his pair of silver doves, till burnt at
last in fire of thy fair eyes, ourselves become our own best sacrifice.

Richard Crashaw
(1616-1649)

The Chancel Choir
Doxology Youth Choir
Mary Allison Hamby, soprano

*AT THE PRESENTATION:

Doxology with Alleluias.................................................................Tune: Last 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.


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 Sing ................................. Tune: 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:

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 Lamb of God appears, promised from eternal years! Lo, within a manger lies 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 a 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

PART IV — THE NIGHT OF WONDER


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 This ................................................................. Tune: 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.

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**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

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**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, Traci Johnson, Mary Trammel, Trey and Lucy come forward to light the Christ Candle

**The Lighting of the Candles**
THE CAROL, 239:  
Silent Night, Holy Night .......................................................................................... Tune: Stille Nacht

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.

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. 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.

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 Atlanta Brassworks

* 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. Josh Miles, Associate Minister
Rev. Darren Hensley, Deacon

Lighting the Christ Candle
Traci Johnson, Mary Trammel, Trey and Lucy

Music
Scott H. Atchison, Director of Music and Organist
Oliver G. Brett, Associate Organist and Choirmaster
Kathy Fletcher, Director of Youth and Children’s Music
Robin Hensley, Music Associate
The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve, 2022

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)

Fantasia in G, BWV 572.................................................................J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Oliver G. Brett, organist

Renaissance Dances from 'The Danserye'

La Mourisque
Bransle Quatre Bransles
Ronde
Ronde-Mon Amy
Basse Danse Bergeret

The Atlanta Brassworks

The Welcome

Carol at the Introit:

My Lord has come .................................................................Will Todd
(b.1970)

Love and angels: no place but a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, searching
for love in heaven; no place for them but a stable. His love will hold me, his love will cherish me,
love will cradle me. Lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels; no place for me but a
stable, my Lord has come.

The Chamber Singers
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:*

\[O \text{ Come, All Ye Faithful} \quad \text{Tune: Adeste Fideles}\]

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

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

\[\text{John F. Wade}\]
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious Lord, we come into your presence with mixed feelings. It is Christmas Eve, and we are filled with anticipation of the joy we will experience. However, we confess that we are worried. We worry that economic inflation could rob us of our financial security; we have health concerns about loved ones that have us worried; and we worry that the divisions in our land have become too deep to bridge. As a result, we confess that we sometimes miss what this season is all about — Emmanuel, God-with-us. Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation and love as we sing our familiar carols. Forgive us for focusing on ourselves and what we need to do instead of on the wonder of Jesus’ birth. Help us to observe the star rising in the night sky, hear angel voices singing praises on high, see shepherds hurrying to a stable to worship, and ponder in our hearts what all this means for the world, for us.

Hear the good news: God’s love knows no bounds. Love comes down at Christmas — 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, 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:

David Ashley White (b. 1944)

See amid the winter’s snow................................................................. Edward Caswell, 1858

See amid the winter’s snow, born for us on earth below, see, the Lamb of God appears, promised from eternal years! Lo, within a manger lies 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 a 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!

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. Angels 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!
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.


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, Andrew and Bryn Gavre come forward to light the Christ Candle.
INVITATION TO GIVE

AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

THE ANTHEM:

Welcome all wonders ................................................................. Richard Dirksen (1921-2003)

Welcome all wonders in one sight! Eternity shut in a span. Summer in winter, day in
might, heaven in earth, and God in man. That He, the old Eternal Word, should be a
Child and weep. Each of us his lamb will bring, each his pair of silver doves, till burnt at
last in fire of thy fair eyes, ourselves become our own best sacrifice.

Richard Crashaw (1616-1649)

The Chancel Choir
Mary Allison Hamby, soprano

*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 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

1. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

2. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

3. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

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.

Phillis Brooks

THE CAROL, 240:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing........................................................Tune: 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
Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 Carol, 219:

What Child is This

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

The Carol: 217

Away in a Manger

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

The Carol, 218:

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

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 Carol, 245:

The First Noel

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. 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. 

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

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_

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 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, 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, 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, wonders of His love.

Isaac Watts
(1674-1748)
THE BLESSING

† Following the blessing, please extinguish your candles.

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

*THE BLESSING
Following the blessing, please extinguish your candles.

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

* 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

Liturgists
Rev. Elizabeth Byrd, Associate Minister
Rev. Julie Wright, Associate Minister
Rev. Leslie Lyons Watkins, Associate Minister
Rev. Jamie Jenkins, Minister of Visitation

Lighting the Christ Candle
Andrew and Bryn Gavre

Music
Scott H. Atchison, Director of Music and Organist
Oliver G. Brett, Associate Organist and Choirmaster
Welcome, and Merry Christmas

Thank you for worshiping 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 Rev. Elizabeth Byrd at elizabethb@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.
SPECIAL EVENTS

Jane Pauley to Speak at Peachtree Road
Monday, January 23, 2023, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
In addition to her professional success, seasoned newscaster Jane Pauley is a powerful advocate in the field of mental health. In recent years, she has spoken candidly about being diagnosed with mental illness at the age of 50. Her subsequent journey of self-reflection and wellness will be the focus of this special evening presented by The One Lamb Mental Wellness Initiative. A donation of $20 per person will benefit One Lamb. Online registration is now available at prumc.org/register.

WORSHIP

Journey To Wholeness Worship Series
Sundays, January 2023
More of us than ever before are living with anxiety, depression, and other challenges to our mental health. Join us for a special sermon series to seek hope, to discern avenues of help, and to discover assurance and peace in the new year. Rev. Bill Britt, preaching.

PRAYER

Prayer Ministry Open House
Sunday, January 8, 9:45 am – 12:45 pm, Narthex
Do you desire to pray more in the upcoming year? Come to our Prayer Ministry Open House. We will have resources and information to help make prayer a great habit in the upcoming year. Contact Rev. Josh Miles at joshm@prumc.org for more information.

FAITH FORMATION

Seeking Shalom Course
Wednesdays, January 11 - February 8, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio, of Emory’s Candler School of Theology, will lead us in a transformational exploration of the biblical concept of “shalom.” Emphasis will be placed on how we can practically respond to God’s call in our own lives. Online registration is now available at prumc.org/register.

COMMUNITY

Complimentary New Year’s Fellowship Luncheon
Sunday, January 8, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, Grace Hall
Begin the year with great food and fellowship around the table! We’ll enjoy a complimentary meal of hearty chili and toasty grilled cheese sandwiches to warm things up. Free for everyone - we’ll see you there!

New Young Adult Classes Forming
Sundays, beginning January 8, 10:00 - 11:00 am
Come find your place among the young adult community as we learn, grow, serve, and have fun together! Contact Rev. Leslie Watkins at lesliew@prumc.org.

Weekday Drop-In Childcare
Monday through Friday, 9:15 am to 1:15 pm
PRUMC Drop-In Childcare provides care for children from four months through six years of age in a safe, loving environment while parents take a break. For more information, contact the Drop-In office at 404.240.8269 or drop-in@prumc.org.

Tea with the Clergy
Sunday, January 22, 12:30 - 2:00 pm, Hospitality Suite
Get to know our church and ministers better at this casual afternoon gathering. Rev. Bill Britt, Rev. Elizabeth Byrd and Rev. Josh Miles will answer questions, share their vision and help you connect to areas of interest within the church. For more information, please contact Rev. Elizabeth Byrd at elizabethb@prumc.org.

Listen to Your Heart: A Retreat for Women
February 24 & 25
Save the date for a special weekend for women featuring:
• Prayer Bead Workshop led by Kristen E. Vincent
• Yoga led by Rev. Emily Miles
• Sacred Walks led by Rev. Elizabeth Byrd
Registration coming soon to prumc.org/register.

More Ministry Information
www.prumc.org
For complete information on Peachtree Road UMC ministries, including music, missions, pastoral care and all life stages, please visit www.prumc.org.