

## CHRISTMAS 2023

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

## Christmas Eve 2023

Christmas Eve is a special time here at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. Our sanctuary is beautifully decorated, the lights on our tree shine brightly, and we have good news about Jesus Christ to share with everyone in both word and song. We are excited to share in the wonder of Christmas with you.

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

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

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

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

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

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Bill Britt Senior Minister

# The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2023

## THE FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS ELEVEN FIFTEEN 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 com	e, O come, Emmanuel	13th Century Plainsong
		, ,
L0, n0	w a rose ere biooming	16th Century Melody
	Sa	ally Westmoreland

## THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

Oliver G. Brett, organist

THE GREETING

## THE CHORAL INTROIT

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.

The Chancel Choir

## 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.

## \*AT THE PROCESSION, CAROL 234:

- 1. 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,
- 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

Christ, the Lord.

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious Lord, we come into your presence with mixed feelings. We know we are supposed to be filled with hope. It is Christmas Eve, and we are filled with anticipation of the joy we will experience. However, we confess that we are weighed down by worry. We worry about the possibilities of an economic recession that could rob us of our financial security; we worry that wars in Ukraine and the Middle East could escalate into global conflicts; 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 solely upon ourselves and what we need to do instead of upon 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.

## \*AT THE GOSPEL PROCESSION, CAROL 238:

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 HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20
† before the reading:  Cantor: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.  Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia!  People: Alleluia, Alleluia!  † following the reading:  Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.  People: Thanks be to God!  † following the reading
THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Bill Britt, Senior Minister
AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,
CHOIR MOTET
(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, Elizabeth, Chambless, Margaret and Tom Hawk come forward to light the Christ Candle
INVITATION TO GIVE
AT THE OFFERTORY
THE PRAYER
THE ANTHEM:  What sweeter musicJohn Rutter
w nat sweeter music
What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King: Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honour to this day that sees December turn'd to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth gives life and

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honour to this day that sees December turn'd to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth gives life and luster, public mirth, to heaven and the under earth. We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his show'rs, turns the patient ground to flow'rs. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly and this ivy wreath, to do him honour; who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling. What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King.

*Robert Herrick* (1591-1674)

The Chancel 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.

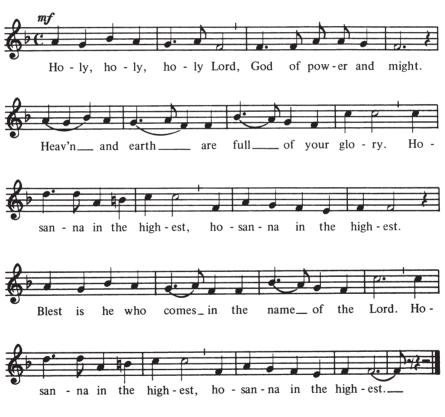
We lift them up to the Lord.

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:

## \*THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



† The people sit.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. We rejoice as your people, for unto us a child is born, unto 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."

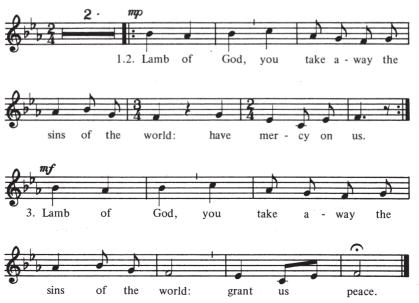
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

## 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



## THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

O Little Town of BethlehemTune: St. La	ouis
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie, above thy deep and dreamless sleep, silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of the years are met in thee tonight.	
Phillips Brod	oks
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	ild, vith
Luke 2:8-	-14
What Child is This	ems iard
Away in a Manger	The near the
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	rth,
Luke 2:8-	-14
The First Noel	arol
The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so de Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.	eep.
Luke 2:8-	-14

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Minister and People

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

*Matthew* 2:1-12

## THE SERVICE OF LIGHT THE CAROL, 239:

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

- 1. S ilent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 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:

William Green, soloist

† Please join the soloist on refrain:

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

## \*AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION, CAROL 246:

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.

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.

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 of His love.

*Isaac Watts* (1674-1748)

*тығ	BLESSING	AND	DISMI	TAPP
	DICONTINCE	AINII	1113101	A I

† Following the blessing, please extinguish your candles.

## THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

<sup>\*</sup> Those who are able, please stand.

## Music for this Festival Service

is provided by the The Chancel Choir.

## Worship Leaders

## **PREACHING**

Rev. Bill Britt, Senior Minister

## LITURGISTS

Rev. Leslie Lyons Watkins, *Associate Minister* Rev. Josh Miles, *Associate Minister* 

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Elizabeth, Chambless, Margaret and Tom Hawk

## 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, 2023

# 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)
Als ich bei meinen schafern wacht (While by my sheep)
Ihr kinderlein, kommet (O come, little children)
THE WELCOME
CAROL AT THE INTROIT
Advent PrayerRandy Edwards (Twentieth Century)
Hope, peace, joy and love! These are the gifts you bring from above, Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be light of your hope, reflected in me. Amen.  (4:00 pm) The Cherub Choir
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus
Jesus is light, shining in darkness. Jesus is love in our hearts. Jesus is light, and love, and joy. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The lamb is the light of the

(6:00 pm) The Covenant Choir

city of God. Shine in my heart. Lord Jesus.

## \*THE CAROL FOR JOYFUL PROCESSION, Hymn 234:

- 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,
- 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

Christ, the Lord.

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious Lord, we come into your presence with mixed feelings. We know we are supposed to be filled with hope. It is Christmas Eve, and we are filled with anticipation of the joy we will experience. However, we confess that we are weighed down by worry. We worry about the possibilities of an economic recession that could rob us of our financial security; we worry that wars in Ukraine and the Middle East could escalate into global conflicts; 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 solely upon ourselves and what we need to do instead of upon 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:

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, an angel of the Lord cam down and glory shone around. "Fear not!" the angel said to them that starry Chrhistmas night. "Go quickly now and see the One who brings us joy and light!" Come and sing with the angels. Tell the wonderful news: Christ is born in Bethlehem, born for me and you.

The Cherub Choir

(b. 1969) People who walk in darkness have seen a great light. The light will shine upon them: may it shine brightly tonight. Will you be ready for the light to shine upon you? Will you be watching? Will you be listening? Will you hear the angels sing? Will you be waiting? Will you be searching for a Savior and a King? People keep watching, true light is coming, look for a bright star in the East. Look for the Christ Child, born in a manger, there you will find the Prince of Peace. The Celebration Singers Lyla Lowery, soloist AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING, MOTET ...... Veni Emmanuel (Fifteenth Century) O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. William Green, soloist † During the singing of the carol, Emily, Craig, Leo, Barrett, and Henry Hyde (4:00pm) Lanny, Meg, Land, Margaret Bailey and Ridge Blackwood (6:00 pm) will come forward to light the Christ Candle

## AT THE OFFERTORY THE PRAYER

(4:00 pm) Carol Medley .....arr. Max Cook

## Max Cook, piano

(Twentieth Century)

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

> Combined Children's Choirs Brooks Newcomb, soloist

## \*AT THE PRESENTATION:

Angels We Have Heard on High

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

4. See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend you aid,

Refrain

echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain* 

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Traditional French Carol

while our hearts in love we raise.

† The people sit.

## THE LIVING NATIVITY

## THE JOURNEY TO THE MANGER

## THE CAROL, 250:

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:

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, born is the King of Israel.

Luke 2:8-14

*Matthew* 2:1-12

## WORSHIPPING THE CHRIST CHILD

## THE CAROL, 254:

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

John H. Hopkins, Jr.

### THE CAROL, 230:

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

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie, above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Phillips Brooks

THE TRADITION OF THE CANDLE LIGHTING ...... Harrison Miller (4:00 pm)

Charlie Ingram (6:00 pm)

#### THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### THE CAROL, 239:

- 1. S ilent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

- 3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
- 4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

## THE SOLO:

William Green, soloist

† Please join the soloist on refrain:

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

Joesph Mohr

## \*THE CAROL, 246:

Let earth receive her King:

Let every heart, prepare Him room

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.
- 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 CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

Oliver G. Brett, organist

Scott H. Atchison, organist

<sup>\*</sup>THE BENEDICTION

<sup>\*</sup>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

Martha Christopher, *Director of Children's Ministries*Beth Spencer, *Director of Local Outreach and Lay Volunteer Services* 

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

(4:00 pm) Emly, Craig, Leo, Barrett, and Henry Hyde (6:00 pm) Lanny, Meg, Land, Margaret Bailey and Ridge Blackwood

## 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 – Callie Barfield, Lily Mack Brady, Bird Blitch, Sallie Cox, Grayson Hargraves, Harrison Miller

> Mary – Emily Miles Joseph – Josh Miles Baby Jesus – Daisy Laine Miles

Shepherds – Hayes Alderman, Henry Alderman, Mercer Amy, Willie Brady, Lanier Clay, Walker Clay, Gillis Caswell, Jim Caswell, Benjamin Hargraves, James Harmon, John Huffman, Daniel Kennedy, Joe Ratterree, Benjamin Reeves, Davis Rivest, Reed Rivest, Will Sartain, Connor Smith, Jacob Thorne, Charlie Yates

Angels – Quinn Bennett, Alice Blackmon, Avalyn Duckett, Holland Gaddis, Cate Harmon, Lucy Kennedy, Helen Kirbo, Jane Kirbo, Constance Kucharz, Georgiana Kucharz, Ava Kurban, Ella Kurban, Milly Kate Miller, Reagan Miller, Annie Reeves, Ellie Smith, Virginia Wamberg, Reese Werner, Emery Wood, Morgan Yates

Sheep – Milledge Anderson, Margaret Amy, Birdie Blackmon, Lydia Hanson, Adelaide Milton, Sally Kate Robinson, Sutton Sartain, Annie Shroyer

Inn Keeper – Samantha Buday

Wise Men – Bowen Alderman, Fisher Bond, William Moore

The Tradition of the Candle Lighting - Harrison Miller

### THE LIVING NATIVITY

6:00 pm

The Living Nativity Readers – Madeleine Crampton, Charlie Ingram, Lola Cooper Knowles, Guy Nix, Sara Kate Revell, Sara Cole Shapleigh

> Mary – Elise Kuzniak Joseph – Davis Dickson Baby Jesus – Isaac McFarland

Shepherds – Thomas Anderson, Townes Arnold , Ford Battey, Rhoades Bowen, Watts Childers, William Childers, Mac McCutcheon, Boone Murphy, Sam Richwine, Bowen Smith, Miller Smith, Jackson Taylor, Ivey Walters, Wright Walters

Angels – Camille Allen, Sarah Allen, Reagan Arnold, Charlotte Bowen, Caroline Childs, Mary Hollis Coogle, Virginia Coogle, Collins Etheridge, Emerson Fleming, Hollis Fleming, Addie Forsberg, Charlotte Kolb, Elizabeth Ingram, Mary Patrick Ingram, Alice Long, Chelsea Lowery, Kate Lowery, Clara McMeekin, McKinley Smith, Grace Taylor, Ruby Meeks Warner

Sheep – Elizabeth Connell, Lachlan Hart, Henry McCutcheon, Thomas Patton, Margaret Richwine, Ada Claire Shirley, Jackson Staner, Mary Margaret Woolfolk

Inn Keeper – Jackson Revell

Wise Men – Walker Etheridge, Sebastian Rodriguez, Hodgens Smith

The Tradition of the Candle Lighting – Charlie Ingram

# The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2023

## 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)			
Puer natus in Bethlehem, BWV 603	J.S. Bach		
Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV 604	(1685-1750)		
Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BWV 605			
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her, BWV 606			
Oliver G. Brett, organist			
Renaissance Dances from 'The Danserye'  La Mourisque Bransle Quatre Bransles Ronde Ronde-Mon Amy Basse Danse Bergeret  The Atlanta Brassworks	Tylman Susato (c. 1500-c.1560)		
THE WELCOME			
THE INTROIT			
Carol of the bells			
Hark how the bells; sweet silver bells, all seem to say "throw cares	away". Christmas is here		

joyful tone to every home. Born is the King.

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, Chistmas is here. Merry Christmas! On they send, on without end their

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:

- 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,
- 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

Christ, the Lord.

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. We know we are supposed to be filled with hope. It is Christmas Eve, and we are filled with anticipation of the joy we will experience. However, we confess that we are weighed down by worry. We worry about the possibilities of an economic recession that could rob us of our financial security; we worry that wars in Ukraine and the Middle East could escalate into global conflicts; 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 solely upon ourselves and what we need to do instead of upon 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:
Ring out you crystal spheres, Hodie
Randall Z. Stroope
(b. 1953)
Ring out, you crystal spheres. Bless at once our human ears, and let your silver chime,

Tinniant argent'ae, move in melodious time, Concinant numerose, and with your ninefold harmony, the consort of the angelic symphony. Sun and moon, planets all.

John Milton, 1608-1674

## The Chancel Choir

## \*AT THE PRESENTATION:

†The people sit.

## PART I - THE PROMISE TO ISRAEL

SCRIPTURE: Micah 5:1-5A

**PRAYER** 

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

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

THE CAROL, 230:

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:

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:

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play, wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not darken the earth that God made. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: Life redeemed from fang and claw. Peace will pervade more than forest and field: God will transfigure the violence concealed deep in the heart and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgement the Lord will ordain. Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent, all of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Thomas H. Troeger (b. 1945)

The Chancel Choir William Green, tenor

### PART IV - THE NIGHT OF WONDER

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-7

PRAYER

Minister: Lord of mystery, in this holy night you have brought heaven down to earth. We see the child there,

sleeping quietly, the animals surrounding him, the dusty rafters bending low to greet Him. Lord, we wonder; was it worth the risk to give your only son for us this way? Try as we may,

Lord, we do not comprehend the mystery of Jesus' birth.

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

THE CAROL, 219:

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

Luke 2:8-14

## PART VI - ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:15-20

**PRAYER** 

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

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

THE ANTHEM:

(b. 1971)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance. Sing O my love; this have I done for my true love. Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance; thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance. In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor this was my chance, betwixt and ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance. Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance, my Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love. Traditional

## The Chancel Choir

## PART VII - THE WORD MADE FLESH

SCRIPTURE: John 1:14

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Bill Britt, Senior Minister

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,

(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, Mary Trammel, Trey, and Luce Johnson come forward to light the Christ Candle

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

THE CAROL, 239:

- 1. C ilent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round you 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, Iesus, 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:

(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:

- oy to the world, the Lord is come.

  3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, Let earth receive her King: J 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.
- 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:

(1945-1989)

> Scott H. Atchison, organist The Atlanta Brassworks

<sup>\*</sup> 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. Elizabeth Byrd, Associate Minister Rev. Darren Hensley, Deacon

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Traci, Mary Trammel, Trey, and Lucy Johnson

## 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* 

# The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve, 2023

## FESTIVAL CHORAL EUCHARIST

## TEN-THIRTY O'CLOCK

THE CARILLON PRELUDE	
Ding! dong! merrily on high	d Christensen tieth Century)
Irby (Once in royal David's city)He	enry Gauntlett (1805-1876)
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the nations, come)Johann S	Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
THE PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS (10:15 pm)	
Puer natus in Bethlehem, BWV 603	J.S. Bach
Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV 604	(1685-1750)
Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BWV 605	
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her, BWV 606	
Oliver G. Brett, organist	
Renaissance Dances from 'The Danserye'	Tvlman Susato
v v	1500-C.1560)
Bransle Quatre Bransles	
Ronde	
Ronde-Mon Amy	
Basse Danse Bergeret	
The Atlanta Brassworks	
THE WELCOME	
CAROL AT THE INTROIT:	
Hodie Christus natus estFr	rancis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Born today is Christ, born for us, comes today, lo! to us the Savior comes, song	1

The Chamber Singers

exulting: Glory be, glory to God on high, Alleluia.

sing, sing to men on earth, and their praise Archangels bring: Loud today the just men cry out,

### 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:

- 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

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious Lord, we come into your presence with mixed feelings. We know we are supposed to be filled with hope. It is Christmas Eve, and we are filled with anticipation of the joy we will experience. However, we confess that we are weighed down by worry. We worry about the possibilities of an economic recession that could rob us of our financial security; we worry that wars in Ukraine and the Middle East could escalate into global conflicts; 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 solely upon ourselves and what we need to do instead of upon 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:

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play, wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not darken the earth that God made. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: Life redeemed from fang and claw. Peace will pervade more than forest and field: God will transfigure the violence concealed deep in the heart and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgement the Lord will ordain. Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent, all of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Thomas H. Troeger (b. 1945)

The Chancel Choir William Green, tenor

## 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:

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance. Sing O my love; this have I done for my true love. Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance; thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance. In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor this was my chance, betwixt and ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance. Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance, my Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love.

Traditional

The Chancel Choir

† The people stand.

## \*AT THE GOSPEL PROCESSION, 238:

- 1. A ngels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
  Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
- 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing: come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*
- 4. See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. *Refrain*

Traditional French Carol

## \*THE GOSPEL CITATION

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

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## \*THE GOSPEL LESSON

THE READING: Luke 2:1-20

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

The Gospel of the Lord. Liturgist: People: Thanks be to God.

† The Alleluia is repeated.

† The people sit.

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Bill Britt, Senior Minister

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,

(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, David, Allison, Haley, and Lauren McKee come forward to light the Christ Candle.

INVITATION TO GIVEDiana	Scar	ılan
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## AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

THE ANTHEM:

Ring out, you crystal spheres. Bless at once our human ears, and let your silver chime, *Tinniant argent'ae*, move in melodious time, *Concinant numerose*, and with your ninefold harmony, the consort of the angelic symphony. Sun and moon, planets all.

John Milton, 1608-1674

### The Chancel Choir

## \*AT THE PRESENTATION:

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!

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

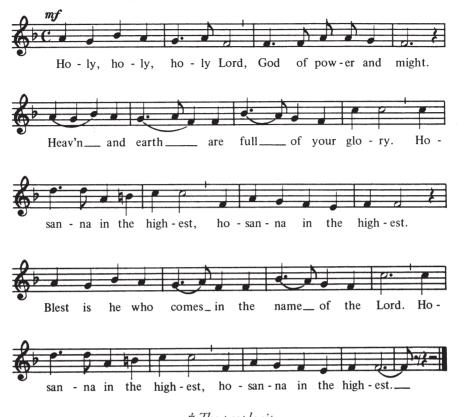
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

## It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

### THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



† The people sit.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. We rejoice as your people, for unto us a child is born, unto 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."

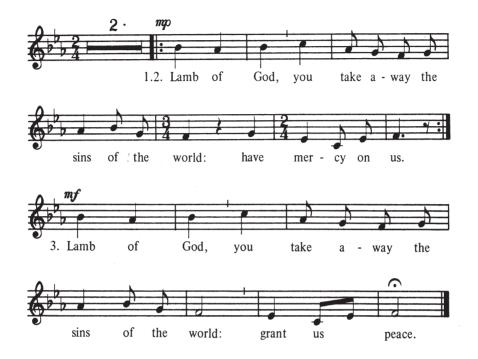
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

## 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



## THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### THE MOTET:

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honour to this day that sees December turn'd to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth gives life and luster, public mirth, to heaven and the under earth. We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his show'rs, turns the patient ground to flow'rs. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly and this ivy wreath, to do him honour; who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling. What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King.

*Robert Herrick* (1591-1674)

The Chancel Choir

## CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS:

O Little Town of Bethlehem	Tune: St. Louis
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie, above thy deep and dre silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hope the years are met in thee tonight.	
	Phillips Brooks
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	and mercy mild, of the skies, with
	Luke 2:8-14
What Child is This	eet with anthems
Away in a Manger	sweet head. The the hay. Be near pray; bless all the
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	ng near the earth,
	Luke 2:8-14
The First NoelTradition	nal English Carol
The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in field in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night the Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.	
· ·	<i>Luke</i> 2:8-14

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Minister and People

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

*Matthew* 2:1-12

### THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

THE CAROL, 239:

- 1. S ilent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
- 3. Silent night, holy night,
  Son of God, love's pure light;
  radiant beams from thy holy face
  with the dawn of redeeming grace,
  Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
  Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
- 4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

THE SOLO:

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

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. J oy to the world, the Lord is come.
  Let earth receive her King:
  Let every heart, prepare Him room
  And heaven and nature sing,
  And heaven and nature sing,
  And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns.

  Let all their songs employ.

  While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
  Repeat the sounding joy,
  Repeat the sounding joy,
  Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

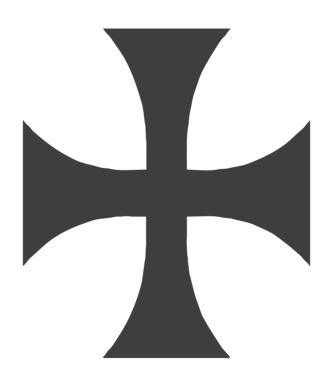
Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

## \*THE BLESSING

† Following the blessing, please extinguish your candles.

## THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

Scott H. Atchison, *organist* The Atlanta Brassworks



<sup>\*</sup> Those who are able, please stand.

## Music for this Festival Service

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

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

## Worship Leaders in Tonight's Service

## PREACHING

Rev. Bill Britt, Senior Minister

## CO-CELEBRANTS

Rev. Geoff Beakley,, Associate Minister Rev. Julie Wright, Associate Minister

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

David, Allison, Haley, and Lauren McKee

## 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 Brittany Charron at brittanyc@prumc.org.

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

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

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

Learn about our Preschool at the preschool.org, and our Sports and Recreation programs at prumcsports.org.

## IF YOU ARE NEW

## Tea with the Clergy

Sunday, January 28, 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. After conversation wraps up, those who wish to take the next step in membership may join in a brief service. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Brittany Charron at brittanyc@prumc.org.

## **CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

## **Drop-In Childcare**

Weekdays, 9:15 am - 1:15 pm, Children's Building We offer flexible, faith-based childcare that includes art, music and play for children ages 4 months to 6 years old. For more information, please contact drop-in@prumc.org, or 404.240.8269.

## Save the Date - Praying the Scriptures for Your Children Sunday, January 28, 5:00 pm, Grace Hall

We will welcome guest speaker and author Jodie Berndt as she guides us through praying God's purpose for the lives of our children.

## YOUTH

### 2024 Trip Registrations

Step out of your routine, develop deeper relationships and discover who God created you to be! Whether it's sport, retreat or mission, our trips are fun, meaningful and memorable. And your friends are always welcome to join us! Complete information can be found on the registration pages linked to prumc.org/events or prumc.org/youth. Please reach out to the Youth Team with any questions.

Feb 2-4 Renovatus Spiritual Retreat, GA / Grades 6-12
 Jun 16-23 High School Mission Trip, Belize / Grades 9-12
 July 7-12 Middle School Mission Trip, KY / Grades 6-8

Youth - 1/99

Sundays, 5:00 pm, Harp Center

All 7th-12th grade students and friends are invited to join us for worship, small groups, dinner, and games each Sunday.

## YOUNG ADUITS

## Young Adult New Year Class Kick-Off

Sunday, January 7, 10:15 am, C210

Join Harvest and Lighthouse classes for an inspiring message from SJC Ventures principal and PRUMC member, Jeff DeHart. No RSVP necessary.

### Young Adult Taco Tuesdays with Rev. Josh Miles

Tuesdays, **January 9 & 16**, 6:30 pm, Hospitality Suite Come for a meal and Bible study with Josh Miles. RSVP at prumc.org/events.

## Peachtree Perk Young Adult Meet & Greet

Sunday, **January 14**, 9:45 - 11:00 am, Peachtree Perk Coffee Bar (2nd floor C Hallway)

Come for coffee and a short devotional as you connect with old and new friends! No RSVP necessary.

#### Young Adult Men's Bible Study

Are you a young man between 22 and 39 years old? Then we're calling on you join a new study group in the new year. Rev. Geoff Beakley will lead us in studying the Bible and learning how it applies to men in a modern context. Sign up at prumc.org/events.

## ONE LAMB MENTAL WELLNESS

## Mental Health Support

One Lamb Mental Wellness Initiative has available mental wellness resources, helpful support, informative events, and more. Please visit their website at 1Lamb.org to access information and find avenues for help and wellness.

### **Financial Assistance for Mental Wellness**

If you need financial assistance for mental health services, please visit One Lamb's website, 1Lamb.org. Click the "Giving and Gifts" menu item and you will find a scholarship application that you can complete and submit online.

### NAMI Family-to-Family 8 Week Course

Sundays, starting January 7, 2:00 - 4:30 pm, C106 & Zoom If you have family or friends with mental health challenges, NAMI provides a course to cope and problem-solve. Attendees learn self-care, support resources, crisis management, treatment and more. For more information, contact Susan Thigpen at thigpensusan@gmail.com.

## ADULT FDUCATION

### Winter Bible Studies

Enjoy lively discussion, new perspectives and new insight as you learn and grow with others from your church family. No matter how much or how little you already know of the Bible, spending time studying God's word can be transformative. If you are ready to take another step in your personal faith journey, join us!

## **Adult Sunday School**

### Sundays, 10:00 am, B & C Buildings

In a weekly small group, you can experience friendship, support and learning within the greater church community. Feel free to visit many different classes until you find the one that fits you best. For more information, please contact Rev. Elizabeth Byrd at 404.240.8270 or elizabethb@prumc. org.

### Wesley Heritage Trip 2024

All are invited to join us on a pilgrimage to the land of Methodism's founder. From October 22 – 31, 2024 we will explore and appreciate facets of John Wesley's life in beautiful England. From bustling towns to bucolic villages, we will follow Wesley's travels and enjoy wonderful points of interest along the way. For more information, visit prumc. org/pilgrimages or contact Jamie Jenkins at 404.771.7031 or jamiej@prumc.org.

## **GLOBAL MISSIONS**

#### PRUMC Missions - Shine God's Light

Mission trips allow you to experience your faith in a powerful and transformative way. Learn more about PRUMC Global Missions at prumc.org/global-missions. The trip is just the beginning!

## **PRAYER**

## **Prayer Ministry Volunteers**

We have great resources for you to make prayer a blessing in your life this year. Prayer volunteers lift up others in prayer and write notes of hope and encouragement. You may pray privately in one of our Prayer Rooms, or in a place of your choosing. For more information, please contact Rev. Josh Miles at joshm@prumc.org.

## PASTORAL CARE

To notify the clergy of a **pastoral care concern**, such as a birth, hospitalization, or death, please contact Rev. Josh Miles at 404.240.8270 or joshm@prumc.org. You may also visit prumc.org/pastoral-care to complete our online form that immediately notifies select clergy and staff.

## PASTORAL COUNSFLING

The Pastoral Counseling Service (PCS) confidentially offers professional counseling and pastoral care to individuals, couples and families. Our professional counselors are academically trained and clinically licensed by the State of Georgia. We are experienced in navigating life's challenges and are committed to helping clients do the same. You may make an appointment with Ron Greer or Andrea Dewalt by contacting Heather Hart at 404.240.8219.

## MUSIC & ARTS

### **PRUMC Music Academy**

The PRUMC Music Academy is a place where you can pursue your musical aspirations at any age and level. Whether you strive to discover a new passion, or rekindle a former one, we offer a wonderful space of exploration for musical growth. We offer expert instruction, affordable rates, and attainable goals - all in an encouraging environment. If you would like to further develop your musical skill, at any level, we warmly welcome you! Visit PrMusicAcademy.org to begin.

## Improvisation Masterclass for AGO Members

Saturday, January 13, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

After an evening of repertoire and improvisation (January 12) by acclaimed organist Jason Roberts, AGO chapter members are invited to a masterclass where Mr. Roberts will share improvisation skills and tips. Both events are free and open to the public. Complete details at prumc.org/music.

### The Atlanta Concert Opera Presents Wagner's Tannhäuser

Thursday, **February 15**, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary Saturday, **February 17**, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Based on the knight-poet Tannhäuser, this opera centers on the struggle between sacred and profane love, penitence, and redemption shown through the journeys of a misunderstood artist. These themes are central to Richard Wagner's most popular and powerful works. This event is free and open to the public.



PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3180 PEACHTREE ROAD, NE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30305 4 0 4 . 2 6 6 . 2 3 7 3 | W W W . P R U M C . O R G