



CAROLS

by Candlelight

DECEMBER 10, 2023



The Music and Arts Program at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

presents

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday, December 10, 2023, 5:30 pm

PRELUDE

Clair de Noel (A Christmas Fantasy)

Ellen Foster, *harp*

Claude Debussy
Austrian Carol, Franz Gruber
arr. for harp by David Ice

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Bill Britt

† *Please stand as the crucifer passes your pew.*

OPENING CAROL

Once in Royal David's City

arr. David Willcocks
(1919-2015)

Stanza one Mary Allison Hamby, *soloist*

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

Stanza two Choir

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle
was a stall, with the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Stanza three All

And through all his wondrous childhood He would honour and obey, Love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay. Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

Stanza four All

For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew. He was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew: And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

Stanza five All

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love. For that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above; And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Stanza six All

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by. We shall see him; but in heaven, set at
God's right hand on high. When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

† *The people are seated.*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Read by Max Cook
(from the Doxology Youth Chorale)

Christ's birth is foretold by Isaiah.

CAROL, 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

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

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

O come, thou root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

THE ANTHEM:

Suo-gan

Welsh Traditional Lullaby
arr. Barlow Bradford
(Twentieth Century)

Sleep my baby in my bosom warm and cozy may you rest, mother's arms are 'round you tightly, mother's love is in my breast. Not a thing shall mar your resting, nor a person do you harm, be at rest, darling baby, sleep my baby, on your mam. Sleep in peace tonight, my beauty sweetly sleep my work of art; why have you just started smiling, smiling gently in your heart? Could it be some angels smiling down on you in smiling rest, with you smiling back and sleeping slumbering sweetly on my breast? Fret you not 'tis but an oak leaf beating, beating at the door. Fret you not, a lonely wave let's murmur on the shore. Sleep my child here there's nothing that can frighten you; smile in peace upon my bosom on the distant angels true.

The Carols by Candlelight Singers, Ellen Foster, *harp*

CAROL, 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

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

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

ANTHEM

I saw three ships

arr. Joel Raney

Peachtree Carillon

SECOND READING

The Christ Child's Birth.

Luke 2: 1-7

Read by Rev. Sean Smith,
Advisor for Faith Affairs,
Office of Mayor Andre Dickens

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.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask 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.

ANTHEM

What child is this?

arr. Linda McKechnie

Peachtree Carillon, William Green, *tenor*, Ellen Foster, *harp*

THIRD READING

Luke 2:15-20

Read by Oliver Brett

The shepherds go to the manger.

ANTHEM

This little babe, Ceremony of Carols

Benjamin Britten

(1913-1976)

This little babe so few days old, is come to rife Satan's fold; all hell doth at his presence quake, though he himself for cold do shake; for in this weak unarmed wise the gates of hell he will surprise. With tears he fights and wins the field, naked breast stands for a shield; his battering shot are babish cries, arrows of weeping eyes. His martial ensigns cold and need, and feeble flesh his warrior's steed. His camp is pitched in a stall, his bulwark but a broken wall; the crib his trench, haystalks his stakes; of shepherds he his muster makes; and thus as sure his foe to wound, the angels' trumps alarum sound. My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; stick to the tens that he hath pight. Within his crib is surest ward; this little babe will be thy guard. If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly boy.

Robert Southwell, (1561-1595)

Doxology Youth Chorale, Ellen Foster, *harp*

CAROL, 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come, ye, O come, ye, to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the king of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

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

Sing, Choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, Glory in the highest:

Refrain

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, Born this happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory given Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

† *The people remain standing.*

FOURTH READING

John 1:1-14

Read by Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

The great mystery of the Incarnation unfolds.

CAROL, 249

Joy to the World

Antioch

Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King; Let every heart, prepare him room and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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.

† *The people are seated.*

CAROLS

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord at thy birth, Jesus Lord at thy birth.

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.

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional English Carol

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!

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*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Bill Britt

† *The people stand.*

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!”
Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings;
 Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
 Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Refrain

† *The people extinguish their candles.*

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach
 (1685-1750)

Oliver Brett, *organ*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

STAFF

Scott H. Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*
 Dr. Oliver G. Brett, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*
 Kathy Fletcher, *Director of Youth and Children’s Music*
 Ruth Sommerville, *Music and Arts Coordinator*
 Pat Rainey Price, *Music Associate*
 Dr. Robin Hensley, *Music Associate*
 Tamara Witt, *Children’s and Youth Music Project Manager*
 Janice McGalliard, *Choral Librarian*
 Darrell Osborne, *AV Manager*

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE MANY MOODS OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 17, 7:30 pm

PRUMC Chancel Choir, Georgia Boy Choir, soloists, orchestra
Scott Atchison, conductor

The PRUMC Chancel Choir, soloists and orchestra present their Christmas classic featuring traditional Christmas hymns, moving new settings of familiar carols and the world premiere of the full orchestration of Randall Stroope's Hodie. This concert will open your hearts and souls to the miraculous story of Jesus' birth. Tickets are complimentary but necessary for seating. Reserve tickets online at www.prumc.org or pick up tickets at church office (M-F, 9-5). Reception sponsored by the PRUMC Friends of Music in Grace Hall following the concert.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Come celebrate this glorious night with us! Our beautiful services offer meaningful messages and magnificent music.

Complimentary childcare for ages 3 and under for the 4:00 & 6:00 pm service.

11:15 am | Christmas Service of Holy Communion

A celebration of the Eucharist.

4:00 pm | Family Candlelight & Pageant

Children's Choirs and Christmas Pageant with nativity characters.

6:00 pm | Family Candlelight & Pageant

Children's Choirs and Christmas Pageant with nativity characters.

8:00 pm | Festival of Lessons & Carols

Chancel Choir and Brass herald in this most Holy Night.

10:30 pm | Festival Choral Eucharist

Chancel Choir and Brass with a celebration of the Eucharist.



PEACHTREE ROAD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

