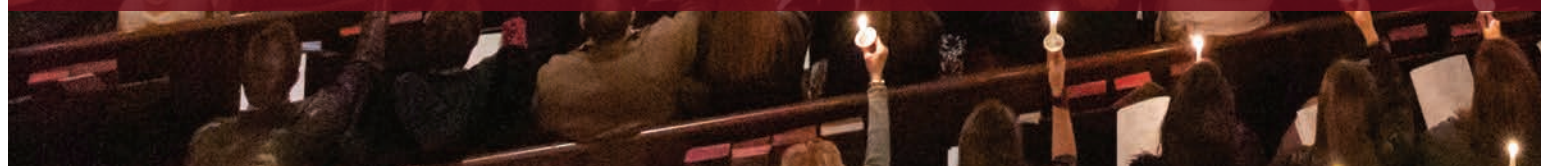




CAROLS *by Candlelight*

DECEMBER 7, 2025



The Music and Arts Program at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

presents

Carols by Candlelight

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 5:30 pm

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Nativity, Symphonie Passion

Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Bill Britt

THE INTROIT

Matins Responsory

G.P. Palestrina
(1525-1594)

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Responsory for Advent Sunday Matins

† Please stand as the crucifer passes your pew

HYMN IN PROCESSION

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

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.

Sung by all

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. Where like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lesson from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all creation into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

Said by all

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

† The people sit

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile

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 exultation; 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 trampling 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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Here ends the reading.

ANTHEM

Creator of the Stars of Night

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call. Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day; defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

The Peachtree Carillon

† The people stand

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

THE COLLECT

Officiant:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Officiant:

Let us pray.

O God our Father, who didst send forth thy Son to be King of kings and Prince of Peace: Grant that all the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of Christ, and learn of him the way of peace. Send forth among all men the spirit of goodwill and reconciliation. Let those who are offended forgive, and those who have offended repent, so that all thy children may live together as one family, praising thee and blessing thee for the great redemption which thou hast wrought for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

† *The people sit*

THE SECOND LESSON

Micha 5: 2-5

The prophet foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth from me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Here ends the reading.

† *The people stand*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thy 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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

Sung by the choir

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.

Sung by all

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!

THE COLLECT

Officiant:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Officiant:

Let us pray.

O God, who hast declared thy love to mankind by the birth of the holy child at Bethlehem: Help us to welcome him with gladness and to make room for him in our common days, so that we may live at peace with one another and in good will with all thy family; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

† *The people sit*

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Here ends the reading.

† *The people stand*

CAROL

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thy all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

THE COLLECT

Officiant:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Officiant:

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, by whose grace the virgin mother of thy incarnate Son was blessed in bearing him, but still more blessed in keeping thy word: Grand us who honor the exaltation of her lowliness to follow the example of her devotion to thy will; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

† *The people sit*

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Qyirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Here ends the reading.

ANTHEM

Away in a manger

arr. Mack Wilberg
(b. 1955)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright 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 cradle 'till 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.

The Chancel Choir

THE COLLECT

Officiant:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Officiant:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thine only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being born again, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end **Amen**.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-19

The Annunciation to the Shepherds

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made know what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Here ends the reading.

AT THE OFFERTORY
ANTHEM

Et In Terra Pax

Victor C. Johnson

Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis
And on earth peace to all those of good will

The Doxology Youth Chorale

† *The people stand*

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity, pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

THE COLLECT

Officiant:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Officiant:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in thy providence hast made all ages a preparation for the kingdom of thy Son: We beseech thee to make ready our hearts for the brightness of thy glory and thy full blessing in Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reineth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

† *The people sit*

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-19

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Here ends the reading.

Sung by all

We three kings of orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Soloists

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Refrain sung by all

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns Deity neigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high. *Refrain sung by all*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain sung by all*

Sung by all

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain***THE COLLECT***Officiant:*

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Officiant:

Let us pray.

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

SEVENTH LESSON**John 1: 1-18***St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Here ends the reading.

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

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of peace. *Refrain*

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

THE COLLECT

Officiant:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Officiant:

Let us pray.

Almighty God who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

† *The people sit*

† *The candles are lit*

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, 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!

What child is this

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.

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.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

THE COLLECT

Officiant:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Officiant:

Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so may we with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God the Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

† The people extinguish their candles.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

At Christmastide

C.V. Stanford

(1852-1924)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

STAFF

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

Scott H. Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*

Oak Martin, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*

Kathy Fletcher, *Director of Youth and Children's Music*

Ruth Sommerville, *Music and Arts Coordinator*

Dr. Robin Hensley, *Assistant Organist*

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 14, 7:00 pm

PRUMC Chancel Choir, Georgia Boy Choir, orchestra

Scott Atchison, *conductor*

The PRUMC Chancel Choir, Georgia Boy Choir, and orchestra present their Christmas classic featuring traditional Christmas hymns and moving new settings of familiar carols. 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 in the Dogwood Shop or church offices.

Reception sponsored by the Estate of Gloria Landreth in Grace Hall following the concert.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE GEORGIA BOY CHOIR

Friday & Saturday, December 19, 20, 7:00 pm

David R. White, conductor

Ring in the holiday season with the internationally acclaimed Georgia Boy Choir! Come hear all five levels of the Georgia Boy Choir in this Atlanta tradition and PRUMC favorite. Choristers will perform sacred classics, Christmas carols, and all beloved holiday tunes. Don't forget Atlanta's largest performance of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with all the audience participating! Accompanied by a full orchestra and The Great Organ of PRUMC, it will be two incredible nights of performances. The Georgia Boy Choir is proud to be PRUMC's Ensemble in Residence and is ready to celebrate this most magical time of year with you and your family!

Tickets available at www.georgiaboychoir.org

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.

11:00 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

