



CHRISTMAS 2025

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA

# CHRISTMAS EVE 2025

Christmas Eve is a special time here at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. Our sanctuary is filled with the symbols of our faith. 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. I want to invite you to participate in that tradition this Christmas Eve by giving the gift of life to thousands of people.

As in year's past, our offering will be used to purchase water filters for families living in the large Kiamaina region of Kenya. The only source of water for this area 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 – this Christmas 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 a combined effort with other churches to raise \$400,000 (our part of that goal is \$200,000). If every person worshipping 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.

And here's the exciting part. We started this project eleven years ago, and the results are astounding. The folks to whom we have given the gift of water filters are healthier and able to go to school, to work, and to provide for their families. They now have the means to purchase their own water filter when the old one is no longer usable. You talk about a gift that keeps on giving! Please make your check payable to Peachtree Road UMC 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's website by scanning the QR code on today's offering card. 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!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Bill Britt  
Senior Minister

# THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2025

THE FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS  
ELEVEN O'CLOCK

PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
3180 PEACHTREE ROAD, N.E., ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
TELEPHONE 404-266-2373  
REV. BILL BRITT, SENIOR MINISTER

## CARILLON PRELUDE

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*..... 13th Century Plainsong  
*Lo, how a rose e're blooming*..... 16th Century Melody  
Sally Westmoreland

## THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

*In dulci jubilo*, BWV 608 ..... J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)  
*In dulci jubilo* ..... Marcel Dupré  
(1886-1971)  
Oak Martin, *organist*

## THE GREETING

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader:* Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all people;  
*People:* For unto us is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.  
*Leader:* Come, let us worship the Lord who established a new covenant through his son  
Jesus Christ.  
*People:* We worship in spirit and in truth.

\*THE CAROL OF PRAISE, 234:

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* ..... Tune: *Adeste Fideles*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>O</b> come, all ye faithful,<br/>joyful and triumphant,<br/>O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.<br/>Come and behold Him,<br/>born the King of angels;<br/><i>Refrain</i><br/>O come, let us adore Him,<br/>O come, let us adore Him,<br/>O come, let us adore Him,<br/>Christ, the Lord.</p> | <p>2. Sing, choirs of angels,<br/>sing in exultation,<br/>O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.<br/>Glory to God,<br/>all glory in the highest;<br/><i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,<br/>born this happy morning,<br/>Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.<br/>Word of the Father,<br/>now in flesh appearing:<br/><i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|--|

*John F. Wade*  
(1711-1786)

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious Lord, we confess that we have not made room for Christ in our lives. We have been preoccupied with the busyness of the season, and our hearts have not been open to the miracle of your coming. Forgive us, we pray. Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation and love as we sing our familiar carols. Free us from our sin and help us to live lives of great joy. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hear the good news: God's love knows no bounds. God loves you with 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, and to make you whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*What child is this?* ..... English Carol  
Juliana Bolaño, *soloist*

\*THE CAROL, 238:

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

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|--|--|
| <p>1. <b>A</b>ngels we have heard on high<br/>sweetly singing o'er the plains,<br/>and the mountains in reply<br/>echoing their joyous strains.<br/><i>Refrain</i><br/>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!<br/>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</p> <p>2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?<br/>Why your joyous strains prolong?<br/>What the gladsome tidings be<br/>which inspire your heavenly song?<br/><i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>3. Come to Bethlehem and see<br/>Christ whose birth the angels sing:<br/>come, adore on bended knee,<br/>Christ the Lord, the newborn<br/>King.<br/><i>Refrain</i></p> <p>4. See Him in a manger laid,<br/>whom the choirs of angels praise;<br/>Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,<br/>while our hearts in love we raise.<br/><i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|--|

*Traditional French Carol*

\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

*Minister:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God!

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ..... Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,

MOTET ..... Veni Emmanuel  
(Fifteenth Century)

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

O come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Juliana Bolaño, *soloist*

† *During the singing of the carol, Allen, Natalie, and Milly Kate Miller will come forward to light the Christ Candle.*

INVITATION TO GIVE

AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

THE CAROL:

*See amid the winter's snow* ..... John Goss  
arr. David Willcocks

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below;  
See the tender Lamb appears, promis'd from eternal years:  
*Refrain*

Hail, thou everblessed morn; Hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim:  
*Refrain*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?  
*Refrain*

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, by thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble thee, in thy sweet humility:  
*Refrain*

*Edward Caswall*  
(1814-1878)

The Choir

\*AT THE PRESENTATION, Hymn 95:

*Doxology* ..... Tune: *Old Hundredth*

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*† The people sit.*

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. We rejoice as your people, for to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. His name shall be called “Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” He was born to give himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify us for good deeds. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

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

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### 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 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*

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

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

*Luke 2:8-14*

*What Child is This* .....Tune: *Greensleeves*

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

*Luke 2:6-20*

*Matthew 2:1-12*

*Away in a Manger* .....*James R. Murray, 1887*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

*Luke 2:7*

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* .....Tune: *Carol*

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

*Luke 2:8-14*

*The First Noel* .....Traditional English Carol

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*Luke 2:8-14*

*Matthew 2:1-12*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Minister and People*

Almighty God, we thank you for this holy place, for bringing us together at your table, surrounded by your love. We thank you for this holy meal, for asking us to taste and see how much Jesus loves us. We thank you for this holy night, for the glad songs we sing and the gifts of love we receive. Help us to give ourselves in love and joy. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

THE CAROL, 239:

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

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

*Joseph Mohr*  
(1792-1848)

THE SOLO:

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

Juliana Bolaño, *soloist*

*† Please join the soloist on refrain:*

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



\* THE CAROL 246:

*Joy to the World*..... Tune: *Antioch*

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

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks,  
hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His  
righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of  
His love.

*Isaac Watts*  
(1674-1748)

\*THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*† Following the blessing, please extinguish your candles.*

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

*Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella.* ..... Keith Chapman  
(1945-1989)

Scott H. Atchison, *organist*

\* Those who are able, please stand.

MUSIC FOR THIS FESTIVAL SERVICE  
is provided by the  
The Christmas Eve Volunteer Choir.

WORSHIP LEADERS

PREACHING

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

CO-CELEBRANTS

Rev. Elizabeth Byrd, *Associate Minister*

Rev. Josh Miles, *Associate Minister*

VERGER

Rev. Emily Miles, *Associate Minister and Director of Mental Wellness*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Allen, Natalie, and Milly Kate Miller

MUSIC

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

Oak Martin, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*

# THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2025

## FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ... *AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH*

FOUR AND SIX O'CLOCK

### CARILLON PRELUDE

*Nesem vam noviny* (Come, all ye shepherds) ..... Anonymous  
(circa 1750)

*Als ich bei meinen schafern wacht* (While by my sheep) ..... Anonymous  
(circa 1625)

*Ihr kinderlein, kommet* (O come, little children) ..... Johann Schulz  
(1747-1800)

Sally Westmoreland

### THE WELCOME

### CAROL AT THE INTROIT

(4:00 pm) *Baby Jesus, Born Today*..... IsaBeall Hudson

See Him lying in the hay, Baby Jesus born today. Ring the bells. Let them sounds. Ring the bells,  
all around.

The Cherub Choir

Lauren Langley, Austin Dees, *percussion*

(6:00 pm) *Hurry, Hurry Shepherds* ..... Anne and William McNair

Hurry, hurry shepherds to the stable in Bethlehem, now do not delay. The angels have pointed  
the way. You will find a baby in a manger, just a tiny boy. He will keep us safe from every danger,  
we will follow his call. Once you've found the baby in a manger, just a tiny boy, tell the world  
He will not be a stranger, He will bring great joy.

The Covenant Choir

Chelsea Lowery, Kate Lowery, *soloists*

\*THE CAROL FOR JOYFUL PROCESSION, Hymn 234:

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* ..... Tune: *Adeste Fideles*

1. **O** come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
born the King of angels;

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord.

2. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God,  
all glory in the highest;

*Refrain*

3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

*John F. Wade*  
(1711-1786)

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious Lord, we confess that we have not made room for Christ in our lives. We have been preoccupied with the busyness of the season, and our hearts have not been open to the miracle of your coming. Forgive us, we pray. Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation and love as we sing our familiar carols. Free us from our sin and help us to live lives of great joy. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hear the good news: God's love knows no bounds. God loves you with 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, and to make you whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

*† The people sit.*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

THE CAROL:

(4:00 pm) *The Angel Band*..... Spiritual

There were one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten little angels in that band. Oh, wasn't that a band, Christmas morning soon.

The Cherub Choir

(6:00 pm) *Go tell it on the mountain*..... African American Spiritual  
arr. Becky Slagle Mayo

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

The Celebration Singers  
Libby Johnson, Charlotte Kolb, *soloists*

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ..... Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,

MOTET ..... Veni Emmanuel  
(Fifteenth Century)

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

O come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

William Green, *soloist*

† During the singing of the carol, Kohler, William, Will, Sutton, and Walker Sartain (4:00pm)  
Caroline, Pat, Maggie, and Liza Fagan (6:00 pm) will come forward to light the Christ Candle.

INVITATION TO GIVE

AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

*Silent Night, Holy Night* ..... Franz Gruber, 1818  
arr. Paul Curnow (b. 1948)

Philip Williams, *saxophone*

\*AT THE PRESENTATION:

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

1. Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

4. See Him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend you aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise.

*Refrain*

*Traditional French Carol*

† The people sit.

# THE LIVING NATIVITY

## THE JOURNEY TO THE MANGER

THE CAROL, 250:

*Once in Royal David's City* ..... Tune: *Irby*

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

*Cecil Frances Alexander*

## THE STABLE ANIMALS

THE CAROL, 227:

*The Friendly Beasts* ..... Medieval French Melody

Jesus our brother, strong and good, was humbly born in a stable rude, and the friendly beasts  
around Him stood, Jesus, our brother, strong and good.

*Anonymous*

## THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

THE CAROL, 245:

*The First Noel* ..... Traditional English Carol

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*Luke 2:8-14*

*Matthew 2:1-12*

## WORSHIPPING THE CHRIST CHILD

THE CAROL, 254:

*We Three Kings* ..... Tune: *Kings of Orient*

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

*John H. Hopkins, Jr.*

THE CAROL, 230:

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

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

*Phillips Brooks*

THE TRADITION OF THE CANDLE LIGHTING .....Helen Kirbo (4:00 pm)

Charlie Covington (6:00 pm)

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### THE CAROL, 239:

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

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

*Joseph Mohr*  
(1792-1848)

### THE SOLO:

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

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.

*Joseph Mohr*

\*THE CAROL, 246:

*Joy to the World* ..... Tune: *Antioch*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come.<br>Let earth receive her King;<br>Let every heart, prepare Him room<br>And heaven and nature sing,<br>And heaven and nature sing,<br>And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.     | 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,<br>nor thorns infest the ground.<br>He comes to make his blessings flow<br>far as the curse is found,<br>far as the curse is found,<br>far as, far as the curse is found. |
| 2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns.<br>Let all their songs employ.<br>While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains<br>Repeat the sounding joy,<br>Repeat the sounding joy,<br>Repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,<br>and makes the nations prove<br>the glories of his righteousness,<br>and wonders of His love,<br>and wonders of His love,<br>and wonders, wonders of His love.    |

*Isaac Watts*  
(1674-1748)

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

*Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella* ..... Keith Chapman  
(1945-1989)

(4:00 pm) Oak Martin, *organist*  
(6:00 pm) Scott H. Atchison, *organist*

\*Those who are able, please stand.



## MUSIC FOR THESE FESTIVAL SERVICES

(4:00 pm)

The Cherub Choir

(6:00 pm)

The Covenant Choir, Celebration Singers

## WORSHIP LEADERS

### PREACHING

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

### LITURGISTS

Rebecca Kennedy, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Beth Spencer, *Director of Volunteer Service and Local Outreach*

### VERGERS

(4:00 pm) Rev. Josh Miles, *Associate Minister*

(6:00 pm) Rev. Elizabeth Byrd, *Associate Minister*

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

(4:00 pm) Kohler, William, Will, Sutton, and Walker Sartain

(6:00 pm) Caroline, Pat, Maggie, and Liza Fagan

### MUSIC

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

Oak Martin, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*

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

Dr. Robin Hensley, *Assistant Organist*

## **THE LIVING NATIVITY**

4:00 pm

**The Living Nativity Readers** – Mercer Amy, Alice Blackmon, Walker Clay, McClain Goetz, Charlotte Hitchcock, Helen Kirbo

**Mary** – Tessa Brinson  
**Joseph** – Joshua McCullough  
**Baby Jesus** – Margaret Vidal

**Shepherds** – Milledge Anderson, Townes Arnold, Robert Bishop, Harben Brady, Watts Childers, Lanier Clay, Ian Jowers, Wade Goetz, James Harmon, John Ellis Lowe, Baker Neblett, William Oppenheimer, Thomas Patton, Wesley Robinson, Will Sartain, Everett Saylor, William Stahel, Jackson Staner, Bowen Smith, Brother Smith, Wynn Wilson

**Angels** – Margaret Amy, Emery Anderson, Quinn Bennett, Birdie Blackmon, Caroline Buchholz, Anna Costlow, Leah Costlow, Avalyn Duckett, Anne Nelson Goetz, Cate Harmon, Georgia Jett, India May Jowers, Jane Kirbo, Nadijah Elkheart-Knighton, Constance Kucharz, Georgiana Kucharz, Ava Penley Kurban, Sutton Oppenheimer, Sally Kate Robinson, Sutton Sartain, Annie Shroyer, Grace Stahel, Connor Smith, Mary Margaret Woolfolk

**Head Angel** – Ivey Walters

**Sheep** – Gregory Bishop, Eleanor Duckett, Ridge Goodloe, Charlotte Lowe, Caroline Michael, Elizabeth Woolfolk, Eleanor Woolfolk

**Inn Keeper** – Wright Walters

**Wise Men** – Willie Brady, William Childers, Townsend Walker

**Cows** – Audrey Jett, Henry Shroyer

**The Tradition of the Candle Lighting** – Helen Kirbo

## **THE LIVING NATIVITY**

6:00 pm

**The Living Nativity Readers** – Emerson Fleming, Olivia Graham, Charlie Howell, George Nunn, Blythe Stowell, Ruby Meeks Warner

**Mary** – Delaney Ellis  
**Joseph** – Mills Edgecombe  
**Baby Jesus** – Micah Ndlovu

**Shepherds** – Whit Battiston, Liam DiSalvo, Boyd Grace, John Huffman, Daniel Kennedy, John Wesley McFarland, Joe Ratterree, Tripp Slappey, Miller Smith, Ada Grace Zeigler, Owen Zeigler  
**Angels** – Libby Battiston, Kayla Boshier, Caroline Childs, Elizabeth Connell, Maggie Fagan, Hollis Fleming, Anna Claire Freeman, Sarah Crenshaw Grace, Mary Patrick Ingram, Elizabeth Ingram, Lucy Kennedy, Mackenzie Linch, Milly Kate Miller, Birdie Mills, Murray Mills, Margaret Richwine, Emery Wood

**Head Angel** – Hollis Fleming

**Sheep** – Tilly Byrd, Lincoln DiSalvo, Liza Fagan, Sutton Fleming, McEwen Huffman, Millie Pound, James Ratterree

**Inn Keeper** – Madeline Slappey

**Wise Men** – Benjamin Hargraves, Jackson Linch, Sam Richwine

**The Tradition of the Candle Lighting** – Charlie Covington

# THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2025

## 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)

*In dulci jubilo*, BWV 608 ..... J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

*In dulci jubilo* ..... Marcel Dupré  
(1886-1971)

Oak Martin, *organist*

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

*La Mourisque*

*Bransle Quatre Bransles*

*Ronde*

*Ronde-Mon Amy*

*Basse Danse Bergeret*

The Atlanta Brassworks

### THE WELCOME

### THE INTROIT

*Carol of the bells* ..... M. Leontovich  
arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

Hark how the bells; sweet silver bells, all seem to say "throw cares away". Christmas is here bringing good cheer to young and old, meek and the bold. That is their song, with joyful ring, all caroling. Hark to the bells, high sounding bells, joyfully ring, born is the King. Oh how they pound, raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale, gayly they ring, while people sing songs of good cheer, Christmas is here. Merry Christmas! On they send, on without end their joyful tone to every home. Born is the King.

Doxology Youth Choir and Alumni

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP:

*Minister:*

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity within the Church He came to build, and especially in this our parish.

And because this would rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

## \*AT THE GREAT PROCESSION, CAROL 234:

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* ..... Tune: *Adeste Fideles*

1. **O** come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
born the King of angels;

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord.

2. True God of true God,  
Light from Light Eternal,  
lo! He shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten  
not created;

*Refrain*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God,  
all glory in the highest;

*Refrain*

4. See how the shepherds,  
summoned to His cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps;

*Refrain*

5. Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace Thee with love and awe.  
Who would not love Thee,  
loving us so dearly?

*Refrain*

6. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

*John F. Wade*  
(1711-1786)

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious Lord, we confess that we have not made room for Christ in our lives. We have been preoccupied with the busyness of the season, and our hearts have not been open to the miracle of your coming. Forgive us, we pray. Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation and love as we sing our familiar carols. Free us from our sin and help us to live lives of great joy. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hear the good news: God's love knows no bounds. God loves you with 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, and to make you whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

† *The people sit.*

INVITATION TO GIVE

AT THE OFFERTORY

THE PRAYER

THE ANTHEM:

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

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

*Richard Crashaw (1616-1649)*

The Chancel Choir  
Doxology Youth Choir  
Mary Allison Hamby, *soprano*

\*AT THE PRESENTATION:

*Doxology with Alleluias* ..... Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† *The 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:

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

*Phillips Brooks*

## PART II — THE PROMISE TO MARY

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-38

### PRAYER

*Minister:* Lord of life, we are not used to having you break into our smooth routine. Open us and wake us to the possibility that you may speak to us at any time. As often as you speak to us, help us to listen. Help us to be ready for your unexpected entrances, thankful that you, Lord, catch us by surprise.

*People:* **Surprise us with the future, Lord. Amen.**

### THE CAROL, 240:

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

*Luke 2:8-14*

## PART III — MARY'S SONG OF PRAISE

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:46-56

### PRAYER

*Minister:* Living Lord, our hearts are overflowing on this night of wonder, full of thanks and praise for all you give us in your holy Son. Like Mary, we are overcome with joy, not sure where this great light will lead us, but eager to follow where the gift may lead. For this, good Lord, we thank and praise you.

*People:* **Make our lives a celebration of your great and holy gift, Lord. Amen.**

### THE ANTHEM:

*Masters in this hall* ..... Marin Marais  
(1656-1728)  
arr. Jerrick Cavagnaro  
(b. 1996)

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today. Brought from over sea, and ever I you pray: *Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we loud. God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud.* Going o'er the hills, through the milk-white snow, Heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow. Shepherds, many an one, sat among the sheep, no man spake more word than they had been asleep. Quoth I, "fellow mine, why this guise sit ye? Making dull cheer, shepherds though ye be?" Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing, Thus to see ye sit is a right strange thing: Quoth these fellows then, "To Bethlehem we go, to see a mighty Lord lie in manger low": "How name ye this lord, shepherds?" then said I, "Very God," they said, "Come from heaven high." This is Christ the Lord, masters be ye glad! Christmas is come in and no folk should be sad: *Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we loud. God today hath poor folk raised and casted, cast a-down the proud.*

*William Morris, 1834-1896*

The Chancel Choir

† *Orchestration commissioned by Warren T. Kennett II for the Peachtree Road Chancel Choir and Scott Atchison, Director of Music.*

#### 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:

*What Child is This* ..... Tune: *Greensleeves*

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

*Luke 2:6-20*

*Matthew 2:1-12*

#### PART V – ANGELS OVER BETHLEHEM

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-14

##### PRAYER

*Minister:* Blessed Savior, how could we have missed the angels? In the rush to buy the last things on our list, in the confusion of the parties and the Christmas cards, how could we have missed the bright light of heaven, telling us to set aside the rest of it and focus on the promise from above? Help us with shining eyes to see again, with open hearts to know afresh that with your coming, Lord, your glory fills our world.

*People:* **Help us to see and celebrate it, Lord. Amen.**

THE CAROL, 218:

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* ..... Tune: *Carol*

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

*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:

*The dream Isaiah saw* ..... Glenn L. Rudolph  
(b. 1951)

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 judgment 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*

The Chancel Choir  
William Green, *tenor*

PART VII — THE WORD MADE FLESH

SCRIPTURE: John 1:14

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ..... Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,

CHOIR MOTET ..... Veni Emmanuel  
(Fifteenth Century)

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

O come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† *During the singing of the carol, Jordan, Allyson, Emerson, and William Kiel come forward to light the Christ Candle.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

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*

THE SOLO:

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

Juliana Bolaño, *soloist*

† *Please join the soloist on refrain:*

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

† *The people stand.*



\*AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION, Hymn 246:

*Joy to the World*..... Tune: *Antioch*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come.<br>Let earth receive her King:<br>Let every heart, prepare Him room<br>And heaven and nature sing,<br>And heaven and nature sing,<br>And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.     | 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,<br>nor thorns infest the ground.<br>He comes to make His blessings flow<br>far as the curse is found,<br>far as the curse is found,<br>far as, far as the curse is found. |
| 2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns.<br>Let all their songs employ.<br>While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains<br>Repeat the sounding joy,<br>Repeat the sounding joy,<br>Repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,<br>and makes the nations prove<br>the glories of His righteousness,<br>and wonders of His love,<br>and wonders of His love,<br>and wonders, wonders of His love.    |

*Isaac Watts*  
(1674-1748)

\*THE BLESSING

*† Following the blessing, please extinguish your candles.*

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

*Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella* ..... Keith Chapman  
(1945-1989)

Scott H. Atchison, *organist*  
The Festival Brass

\* Those who are able, please stand.

MUSIC FOR THIS FESTIVAL SERVICE  
is provided by  
Doxology Youth Choir, The Chancel Choir,  
and The Festival Brass

## WORSHIP LEADERS IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

PREACHING  
Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

LITURGISTS  
Rev. Geoff Beakley, *Associate Minister*  
Rev. Darren Hensley, *Deacon*

VERGER  
Diane Scanlan

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE  
Jordan, Allyson, Emerson, and William Kiel

MUSIC  
Scott H. Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*  
Oak Martin, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*  
Kathy Fletcher, *Director of Youth and Children's Music*  
Dr. Robin Hensley, *Assistant Organist*

# THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2025

FESTIVAL CHORAL EUCHARIST

TEN-THIRTY O'CLOCK

## THE CARILLON PRELUDE

*Ding! dong! merrily on high* ..... David Christensen  
(Twentieth Century)

*Irby* (Once in royal David's city)..... Henry Gauntlett  
(1805-1876)

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (Savior of the nations, come)..... Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

## THE PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS (10:15 pm)

*In dulci jubilo*, BWV 608 ..... J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

*In dulci jubilo* ..... Marcel Dupré  
(1886-1971)

Oak Martin, *organist*

*Renaissance Dances from 'The Danserye'* ..... Tylman Susato  
(c. 1500-c.1560)  
*La Mourisque*  
*Bransle Quatre Bransles*  
*Ronde*  
*Ronde-Mon Amy*  
*Basse Danse Bergeret*

The Atlanta Brassworks

## THE WELCOME

## CAROL AT THE INTROIT:

*The Virgin's lullaby* ..... Sarah MacDonald  
(b. 1968)

"Lullaby, sweet Babe," sung she, and rocked him sweetly on her knee. Sweet was the song the Virgin sung when she to Bethlehem Juda came, and was delivered of a Son, that blessed Jesus hath to name. "O my Son, and eke a Savior born, who hast vouchsafed from on high, to visit us that were forlorn."

*Anon., from William Ballet's First Luke Book, 1590*

The Chamber Singers

Juliana Bolaño, *soprano*

† Commissioned by Warren T. Kennett II for the choirs of Peachtree United Methodist Church and Scott Atchison,  
*Director of Music*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP:

*Minister:*

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity within the Church He came to build, and especially in this our parish.

And because this would rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

## \*AT THE GREAT PROCESSION, CAROL 234:

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* ..... Tune: *Adeste Fideles*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <b>O</b> come, all ye faithful,<br>joyful and triumphant,<br>O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.<br>Come and behold Him,<br>born the King of angels;<br><i>Refrain</i><br>O come, let us adore Him,<br>O come, let us adore Him,<br>O come, let us adore Him,<br>Christ, the Lord. | 4. See how the shepherds,<br>summoned to His cradle,<br>leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;<br>we too will thither<br>bend our joyful footsteps;<br><i>Refrain</i>  |
| 2. True God of true God,<br>Light from Light Eternal,<br>lo! He shuns not the Virgin's womb;<br>Son of the Father, begotten<br>not created;<br><i>Refrain</i>   | 5. Child, for us sinners<br>poor and in the manger,<br>we would embrace thee with love and<br>awe.<br>Who would not love thee,<br>loving us so dearly?<br><i>Refrain</i> |
| 3. Sing, choirs of angels,<br>sing in exultation,<br>O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.<br>Glory to God,<br>all glory in the highest;<br><i>Refrain</i>   | 6. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,<br>born this happy morning,<br>Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.<br>Word of the Father,<br>now in flesh appearing;<br><i>Refrain</i>       |

*John F. Wade*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious Lord, we confess that we have not made room for Christ in our lives. We have been preoccupied with the busyness of the season, and our hearts have not been open to the miracle of your coming. Forgive us, we pray. Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation and love as we sing our familiar carols. Free us from our sin and help us to live lives of great joy. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hear the good news: God's love knows no bounds. God loves you with 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, and 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:**

*The dream Isaiah saw. .... Glenn L. Rudolph  
(b. 1951)*

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 judgment 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*

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:

*Masters in this hall* ..... Marin Marais  
(1656-1728)  
arr. Jerrick Cavagnaro  
(b. 1996)

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today. Brought from over sea, and ever I you pray: *Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we loud. God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud.* Going o'er the hills, through the milk-white snow, Heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow. Shepherds, many an one, sat among the sheep, no man spake more word than they had been asleep. Quoth I, "fellow mine, why this guise sit ye? Making dull cheer, shepherds though ye be?" Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing, Thus to see ye sit is a right strange thing: Quoth these fellows then, 'To Bethlehem we go, to see a mighty Lord lie in manger low': 'How name ye this lord, shepherds?' then said I, 'Very God,' they said, 'Come from heaven high.' This is Christ the Lord, masters be ye glad! Christmas is come in and no folk should be sad: *Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we loud. God today hath poor folk raised and casted, cast a-down the proud.*

*William Morris, 1834-1896*

The Chancel Choir

† *Orchestration commissioned by Warren T. Kennett II for the Peachtree Road Chancel Choir  
and Scott Atchison, Director of Music.*

† *The people stand.*

\*AT THE GOSPEL PROCESSION, 238:

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

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!

\*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.

*Liturgist:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

† *The Alleluia is repeated.*

† *The people sit.*

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ..... Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING,

CHOIR MOTET ..... Veni Emmanuel  
(Fifteenth Century)

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

O come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† *During the singing of the carol, Sally and Matt Westmoreland come forward to light the Christ Candle.*

## INVITATION TO GIVE

### AT THE OFFERTORY

#### THE PRAYER

#### THE ANTHEM:

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

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

*Richard Crashaw (1616-1649)*

The Chancel Choir  
Mary Allison Hamby, *soprano*

#### \*AT THE PRESENTATION:

*Doxology with Alleluias* ..... Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

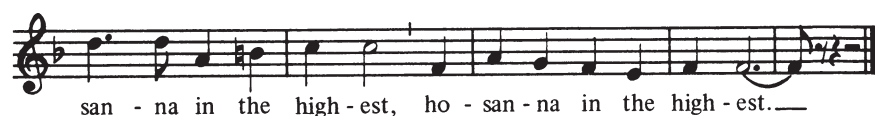
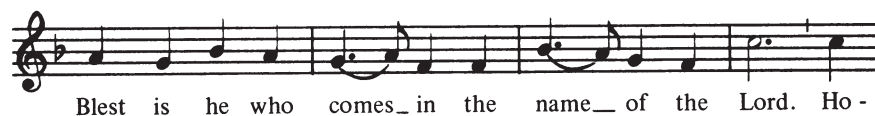
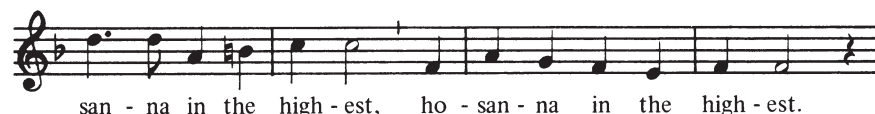
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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



## THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



† *The people sit.*

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. We rejoice as your people, for to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. His name shall be called "Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." He was born to give himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify us for good deeds. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

### THE AGNUS DEI

2. *mp*

1.2. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

*mf*

3. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world: grant us peace.

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE MOTET:

*Away in a manger*..... William J. Kirkpatrick  
(1838-1931)  
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.

*Anonymous*

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 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*

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

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

*Luke 2:8-14*

*What Child is This* .....Tune: *Greensleeves*

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

*Luke 2:6-20*

*Matthew 2:1-12*

*Away in a Manger* .....*James R. Murray, 1887*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

*Luke 2:7*

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* .....Tune: *Carol*

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

*Luke 2:8-14*

*The First Noel* .....Traditional English Carol

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*Luke 2:8-14*

*Matthew 2:1-12*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Minister and People*

Almighty God, we thank you for this holy place, for bringing us together at your table, surrounded by your love. We thank you for this holy meal, for 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.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

THE CAROL, 239:

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

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

*Joseph Mohr*  
(1792-1848)

THE SOLO:

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

*Juliana Bolaño, 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. <b>J</b> oy to the world, the Lord is come.<br>Let earth receive her King;<br>Let every heart, prepare Him room<br>And heaven and nature sing,<br>And heaven and nature sing,<br>And heaven, and heaven and nature sing. | 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,<br>nor thorns infest the ground.<br>He comes to make His blessings flow<br>far as the curse is found,<br>far as the curse is found,<br>far as, far as the curse is found. |
| 2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns.<br>Let all their songs employ.<br>While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains<br>Repeat the sounding joy,<br>Repeat the sounding joy,<br>Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.     | 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,<br>and makes the nations prove<br>the glories of His righteousness,<br>and wonders of His love,<br>and wonders of His love,<br>and wonders, wonders of His love.    |

*Isaac Watts*  
(1674-1748)

*† World premiere of a new setting by Jerrick Cavagnaro*

\*THE BLESSING

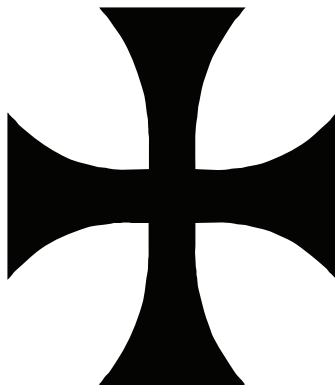
*† Following the blessing, please extinguish your candles.*

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY:

*Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella* ..... Keith Chapman  
(1945-1989)

Scott H. Atchison, *organist*  
The Festival Brass

\* Those who are able, please stand.



## MUSIC FOR THIS FESTIVAL SERVICE

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

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. Karen Webster Parks, *Executive Pastor*

Rev. Geoff Beakley, *Associate Minister*

### VERGER

Rev. Josh Miles, *Associate Minister*

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Sally and Matt Westmoreland

### MUSIC

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

Oak Martin, *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](mailto:elizabethb@prumc.org).



## TO LEARN MORE ABOUT

**Joining the church** - please contact Brittany Charron at [brittanyc@prumc.org](mailto:brittanyc@prumc.org).

**Outreach opportunities** - please contact Beth Spencer at [beths@prumc.org](mailto:beths@prumc.org).

**Joining a choir** - please contact Scott Atchison at [scotta@prumc.org](mailto:scotta@prumc.org).

**Prayer ministry** - please contact Rev. Josh Miles at [joshm@prumc.org](mailto:joshm@prumc.org).

**The Preschool** - please visit [thepreschool.org](http://thepreschool.org).

**Sports and Recreation** - please visit [prumcsports.org](http://prumcsports.org).



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