

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2018

Five O'clock

The Prelude "Of the Father's Love Begotten" John Carter
"The Wexford Carol" arr. Mark Hayes
Donna Jolly, pianist

The Call to Worship (responsive) Isaiah 9:2-4, 6

LEADER: 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.

PEOPLE: **You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;**

LEADER: they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,

PEOPLE: **as people exult when dividing plunder.**

LEADER: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,

PEOPLE: **you have broken as on the day of Midian.**

LEADER: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named –

PEOPLE: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

*The Carol, 171 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN

The Lighting of the Christ Candle¹ Chad and Leah Reed

(text omitted)

(The Christ candle is lit.)

(text omitted)

The Reading Titus 2:11-14

The Carol, 155 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ST. LOUIS

The Reading Luke 2:1-7

The Musical Meditation "Away in a Manger" arr. Mary Radspinner
Becky Mercer, flute, and Rachel Moore Graves, harp

The Reading Luke 2:8-14

The Carol, 152 "Angels We Have Heard on High"
(stanzas 1-2) GLORIA

The Reading Luke 2:15-20

*The Carol, 151 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" GO TELL IT

The Homily "A Manger Scene Briefing"

The Hymn of Response, 167 PICARDY
"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving³

(text omitted)

The Celebration of Communion

We celebrate communion this evening through the practice of intinction. After the words of invitation and the prayer of thanksgiving, you are invited to come forward, receive a piece of bread, and dip it into the cup. Gluten free bread is available on the Hillsborough Street side, near the piano.

"Mary, Did You Know?" arr. Sylvia Woods
Rachel Moore Graves, harp

The Charge to Discipleship (responsive)

LEADER: The God who said, "Let there be light," has caused light to shine in our hearts. That light is the glory of God reflected in the face of Jesus Christ.

PEOPLE: **As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ, so may the church reflect Christ's light and love in the world.**

The Passing of the Light

As the light of Christ is passed, please keep your lighted candle upright. At the conclusion of the benediction, please extinguish your candle.

The Carol "Night of the Father's Love" arr. Pepper Choplin
(As directed, the congregation is invited to sing.)

**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! Shepherds quake at thy sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

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

The Benediction

*The Postlude "Joy to the World" arr. John Ness Beck

(Please deposit your extinguished candle
in a box at the door as you depart.)

*The congregation may stand.

¹Adapted from liturgy developed by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing.
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Liturgists for this service are Christopher Chapman, Trey Davis,
Lynn Lingafelt, Leah Reed, and Mary Alice Seals.

Leah and Chad Reed light the Christ candle.

Lay Readers are Leigh Hobart, Philip Lingafelt, Claire Willmschen,
and Abby Lewis.



Merry Christmas!

Calendar Highlights December 24–30, 2018

Mon, December 24

5:00 Candlelight Communion Service (S)

Tues, December 25

6:00 Christmas Breakfast at Raleigh Men's
Shelter

Church Office closed

Wed, December 26

10:00 Clothing Ministry closed

No afternoon/evening activities

Thu, December 27

11:00 Library Committee (L)

1:00 Clothing Ministry closed

Sun, December 30

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service (S)

Japanese Worship (227)

- CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.
- CLOTHING MINISTRY will be closed December 26 through January 3.
- MID-WEEK activities and Clothing Ministry will resume on Wednesday, January 9.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
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Christopher C. F. Chapman, Pastor Lynn Lingafelt, Children
Trey Davis, Youth/College Jun Matsuzaki, Japanese Ministry Pastor
J. Daniel Day, Pastor Emeritus Leah Anderson Reed, Community
Wayne Hager, Church Administrator Mary Alice Seals, Music/Senior Adults
Donna G. Jolly, Organist

A place of grace, a place of challenge, a place for you.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



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