

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



*Gloria
in excelsis
Deo*

December 24, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

Five o'clock

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude of Carols

"Touro-Louro-Touro" Hal Hopson	"Pat-a-Pan" Hal Hopson
"What Is This Lovely Fragrance?" Hal Hopson	"Fantasia on <i>Greensleeves</i> " R. Vaughan Williams
"The Little Drummer Boy" Beth McCollum	"Noël Nouvelet" Hal Hopson
"Silent Night" Ola Gjeilo	

The Call to Worship (responsive)

Isaiah 9:2-4,6

Michael Hood

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 Solo

"Night of Silence"
Daniel Kantor

Warren Howell

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Annie, Dan, Mac, and George Maloney

LEADER: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

(The Christ candle is lit.)

ALL: **We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries, his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
 lo, he shuns not the vir - gin's womb;
 O sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove:
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
 "Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est";
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

WORDS: Latin hymn, attr. John F. Wade, 1751; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others, alt.
 MUSIC: John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Michael Hood

**God of all ages,
in the birth of Christ
your boundless love for your people
shattered the power of darkness.
Be born in us with that same love and light,
that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

The Reading

Titus 2:11-14

Catherine Carter

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

The Musical Meditation

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
Gustav Holst/Jason Krug, arr.

Beth McCollum

The Reading

Luke 2:1-7

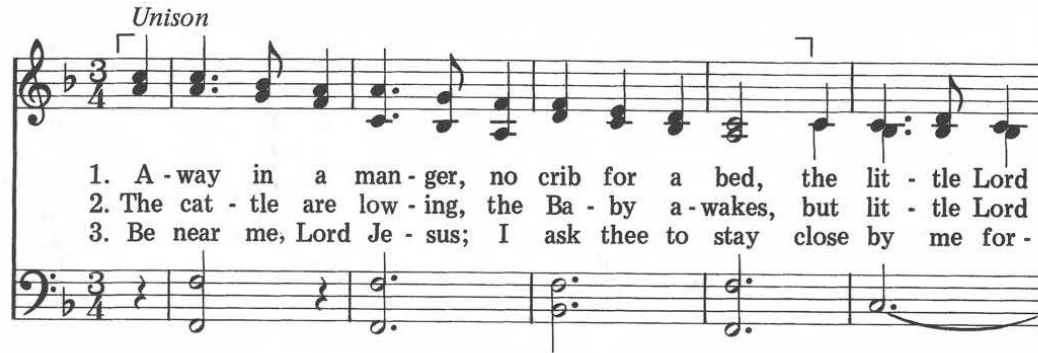
Ann Childrey

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

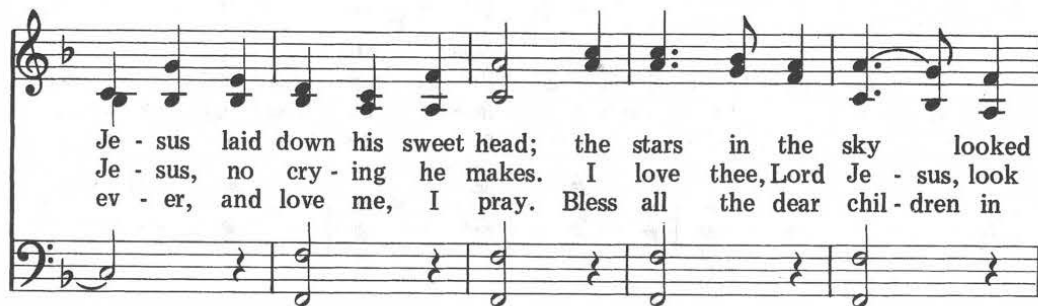
LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Unison



1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en, to live with thee there.

WORDS: Anonymous, 1885; st. 3, 1892, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887

AWAY IN A MANGER
II.II.II.II.

The Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Bailey Underwood

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Descant

2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
4. See with - in a man - ger laid Je - sus, Lord of

1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
3. Come to Beth - le - hem, and see him whose birth the
4. See with - in a man - ger laid Je - sus, Lord of

strains pro - long? Say, what may the ti - dings be
heaven and earth! Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

o'er the plains, and the moun - tains in re - ply
strains pro - long? Say, what may the ti - dings be
an - gels sing; come, a - dore on bend - ed knee
heaven and earth! Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

Refrain

which in - spire your heaven - ly song? Ah!
sing with us our Sav - ior's birth.

ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
which in - spire your heaven - ly song? Glo
Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
sing with us our Sav - ior's birth.

WORDS: Traditional French carol, 18th C.; tr. *Crown of Jesus Music*, 1862, alt.
MUSIC: Traditional French melody, 18th C.; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1937; desc. Richard E. Gerig, 1956
Desc. © 1979, 1990 Hope Publishing Company

GLORIA
7.7.7.7.Ref.

The image displays two systems of musical notation for a Gloria in excelsis Deo. Each system consists of three staves: a vocal line (soprano), a piano accompaniment line (treble clef), and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Ah!" and "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo -". The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass line provides a steady harmonic foundation with quarter and eighth notes.

The Reading

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing their
 east, be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave great
 came from coun - try far, to seek for a king was their in -
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and

Refrain

sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No - el, No -
 tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5. Then entered in those wise men three, 6. Then let us all with one accord
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 and offered there in his presence who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
 their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. and with his blood our life hath bought.
 (Ref.) (Ref.)

1. Long a - go, proph - ets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,
 2. God in time, God in man, this is God's time-less plan:
 3. Mar - y hail! Though a - fraid, she be - lieved, she o - beyed.
 4. Jour - ney ends! Where a - far Beth - lehem shines, like a star,

come to make all things new, bear his peo - ple's bur - den, free - ly love and
 he will come, as a man, born him - self of wom - an, God di - vine - ly
 In her womb, God is laid till the time ex - pect - ed, nur - tured and pro -
 sta - ble door stands a - jar: un - born Son of Mar - y, Sav - ior, do not

Refrain
 par - don.
 hu - man. Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
 tect - ed.
 tar - ry!

When he comes, when he comes, who will make him wel - come?
 (last verse) we will make him wel - come!

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1970

Music: Piae Cantiones, 1582; arr. Gustav Holst, 1925

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

The Invitation to the Table

Christopher Chapman

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsive)

Lynn Lingafelt

LEADER: God of angels and shepherds, we thank you for taking care of Mary and Joseph. We thank you for the warm stable and the soft hay. We thank you that Jesus your Son came to live on earth, and that he was a sweet baby, cradled in his mother's arms. Help us remember that he sometimes cried and got hungry. Help us remember that he was like us in every way, but he was also your holy Son.

PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

LEADER: God of all earth's people, we thank you that Jesus grew and became strong. We thank you that he welcomed children and blessed them. We thank you that he taught the people who came to him, and that he healed the sick and fed those who were hungry. Help us to remember that he loved us enough to die for us. Help us to remember that you raised him to life again and that he is our friend and reigns with you forever.

PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

LEADER: God of glory, we thank you for Christmas, for laughter and singing, for family and friends, for presents and good food. Help us to remember the people who are hungry, the people who are sick or sad, the people who are afraid. Help us to remember all year long that Jesus is the Prince of peace.

PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

LEADER: We thank you, God, 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 accept Jesus' gift of himself, 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.

PEOPLE: Help us to give ourselves in love and joy. In the name of Jesus our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

The Celebration of Communion

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

The Charge to Discipleship (responsive)

Lynn Lingafelt

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.

Descant

3. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-

1. Si-lent night! ho-ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2. Si-lent night! ho-ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si-lent night! ho-ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Stil-le Nacht! hei-li-ge Nacht! Al-les schläft, ein-sam wacht

lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

'round yon vir-gin moth-er and Child, ho-ly in-fant so ten-der and
 glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far, heav-enly hosts sing Al-le-lu-
 ra-diant beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re-deem-ing
nur das trau-te, hoch-hei-li-ge Paar hold-er Kna-be im lock-i-gen

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Je-sus, Lord, at thy birth.

mild, sleep in heav-en-ly peace, sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
 ia; Christ the Sav-ior is born, Christ the Sav-ior is born.
 grace, Je-sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je-sus, Lord, at thy birth.
Haar, schlaf in himm-lisch-er Ruh, schlaf in himm-lisch-er Ruh!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818; desc. Donald P. Hustad, 1989
 Desc. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular

The Benediction

"The Work of Christmas"

Christopher Chapman

Howard Thurman (1899–1981)

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among brothers and sisters, To make music from the heart.

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Thanks to the following their contribution to the music of tonight’s service: Sue Crocker (keyboard), Beth McCollum (violin), Becky Mercer (flute), Dana Chapman, Emma & Sabrina Tyndall (handbells).

Calendar Highlights • December 24, 2021–January 2, 2022

Friday, December 24; Monday, December 27; and Tuesday, December 28

Church Office Closed (Christmas)

Friday, December 24

5:00 Christmas Eve Service/Reception

Sunday, December 26

11:00 Worship Service/Michael Hood Preaching (Sanctuary/YouTube)
Japanese Worship/Zoom

Tuesday, December 28

10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Virtual)

Thursday, December 30

7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Friday, December 31

First Night of Raleigh

Sunday, January 2

9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship (Sanctuary/YouTube)
Japanese Worship (302)

Monday, January 3

Church Office Closed (New Year’s Day)