

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812

*Gloria
in excelsis
& Deo*

December 24, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2022

Five o'clock

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude of Carols

Maureen Howell

The Introit

"Before the Marvel of This Night"

Warren Howell

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night,
adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light,
and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song,
this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng,
in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss,
a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known,
our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown,
now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love
that rules our universe above:
Sing God is love!

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1981

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Scott Burton and Josh Carter

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)

Lynn Lingafelt

**Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit,
teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words
and ponder them in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.**

The Reading

Titus 2:11-14

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**

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing,
 2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tians, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

WORDS: William C. Dix, c. 1865
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody, 16th C.; harm. John Stainer, 1871

GREENSLEEVES
 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7.

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.**

*The Carol

“Away in a Manger”

CRADLE SONG

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 bright 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: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895

CRADLE SONG
 11.11.11.11.

The Reading

Luke 2:8–14

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.**

The Response

GLORIA

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

Glo - - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

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.)

WORDS: Traditional English carol
 MUSIC: W. Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833; arr. John Stainer, 1871

THE FIRST NOEL
 Irregular

On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the
Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er
All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels
an - gels bring; on Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to
made us glad; then why should we on earth be sad, since
sing this night; all out of dark - ness we have light, which
hear the news the an - gels bring, news of great joy, news of great
our Re - deem - er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God in high - est
mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
heaven; peace on earth and good - will. A - men!"

Words and Music: Traditional English Carol

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

The Invitation to the Table

Christopher Chapman

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsive)

Michael Hood

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)

Leah Reed

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

"Silent 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! Shepherds quake at the 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.**

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818
tr. John F. Young, 1863
Music: Franz Gruber, 1818

The Benediction

Leah Reed

*The Postlude

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Emma Lou Diemer

Maureen Howell

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

*The congregation may stand.

Thanks to Rachel Niketopoulos (horn) for sharing her musical gifts in this evening's service.

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Calendar Highlights

December 24–January 1

Saturday, December 24

5:00 Christmas Eve service/Communion (Sanctuary/YouTube)

Sunday, December 25

10:00 Intergenerational fellowship (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 Worship (Sanctuary/YouTube)
Japanese Worship (226)

Monday, December 26, and Tuesday, December 27

Church office closed

Tuesday, December 27

10:30 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)

Thursday, December 29

7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Saturday, December 31

First Night of Raleigh

Sunday, January 1

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship (Sanctuary/YouTube)
Japanese Worship (226)

- The church office will be closed on Monday, January 2.
- The clothing ministry will be closed on December 26 and January 2.
- Mid-week activities will resume Wednesday, January 4.