

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve, 5:00 pm

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2023

Five o'clock

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude of Carols

Maureen Howell
Becky and Cady Mercer

The Lighting of the Christ Candle (responsive)

Kat, Raelyn, and Will Sidner

READER: Our wait is over, the Christ-child is here!

PEOPLE: **Long we have waited, long we have watched for his coming.**

READER: God is not satisfied to remain apart from us, God must be one among us.

PEOPLE: **We are God's people, shepherd of God's flock, children of God's redeeming.**

READER: We light this candle to represent Christ's presence, his everlasting reign.

PEOPLE: **We give thanks to God for the fulfillment of hope, peace, joy, and love.**

(The candle is lit.)

*The Hymn, 173

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

WORD IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)

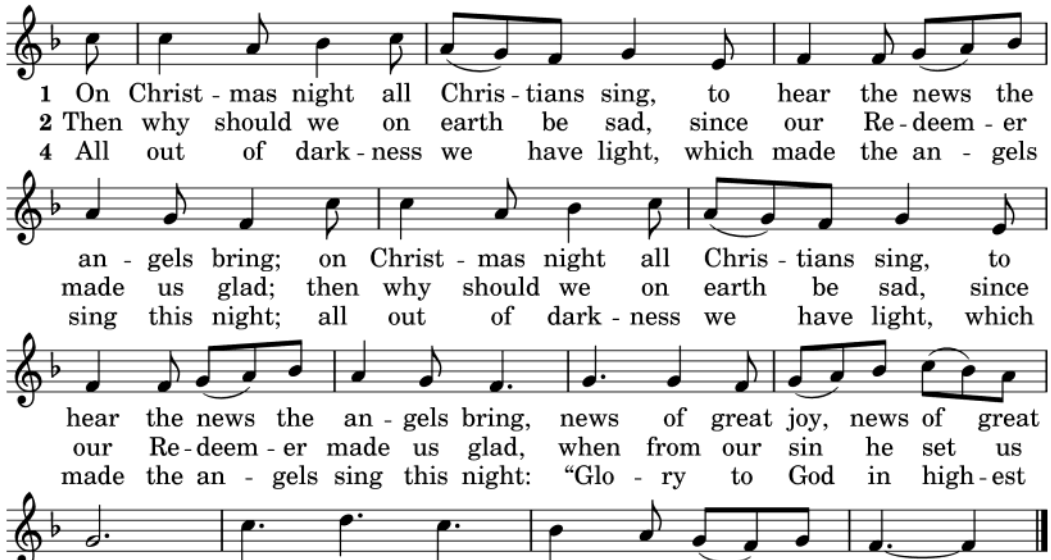
Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all—so that we may sing with the angels: "Glory in the highest and peace on earth!"; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

*The Carol

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

SUSSEX CAROL



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er
 4 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

The Reading

Luke 2:1-7

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.

The Hymn, 147

“Away in a Manger” (*st 1*)

MUELLER

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!”

The Carol, 152

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (*st 1*)

GLORIA

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.

The Homily

Christopher Chapman

“Through the Eyes of Children”

*The Hymn, 155

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

The Invitation to the Table

Michael Hood

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lynn Lingafelt

The Celebration of Communion

*We celebrate communion this evening through the practice of intinction. You are invited to come forward, receive a piece of bread, and dip it into the cup. **All of the bread is gluten free.***

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 Hymn

“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

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Fred Bock

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The lighting of the Christ candle text is from liturgylink.net and was written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing, Shelter Island Presbyterian Church, IL.

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During the Sundays of this year's Advent/Christmas season, the bulletin cover images are by artist LaCount Anderson, depicting scenes from the birth narratives of Jesus. Each picture features something from our sanctuary decor in the design. Here is LaCount's clue to this week's hidden design:

We sing Silent Night this night.

Look above to see;

Scroll art to adorn the babe.

Calendar Highlights • December 24–31

Sunday, December 24

5:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve service/communion (sanctuary)

Monday, December 25

Church office and clothing ministry closed

Tuesday, December 26

Church office closed

Sunday, December 31

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 FBC/JBC combined worship (sanctuary/YouTube)

8:00 *First Night* activities (sanctuary)

- The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1.
- The clothing ministry will be closed on Monday, January 1.
- Mid-week activities will resume Wednesday, January 3.

First Baptist Church

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