

Vanderbilt

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Prelude: "Voluntary in D Major"

Matthew Sonneborn, *Trumpet*

William Boyce
(1711-1779)

Call to Worship

The splendor of God has been revealed among us.

A child has come to change all our ways.

We will leave judgment to God, whose equity we trust.

We are free to rejoice in the beauty God reveals.

Worship the One who breaks yokes and frees us.

Great is our God, and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let earth rejoice.

We are ready to declare God's marvelous works.

Let us worship God.

Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

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| 1. 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 the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!" | 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!" | 3. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!" |
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Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lesley Dey & Trinity Mobley

Though the candles of waiting and anticipation are lighted, and the Advent wreath is ablaze, still there is one more prophecy to hear: On this night, these words are fulfilled in our hearing and in our living, for the promise of God has come to us: "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. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; 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."

(Isaiah 9:2, 6a, 7)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Awesome God, we confess our fear to let down our guard, to feel the wonder, to believe the good news. Why would love choose to live among us, who are so unloving in our words and deeds? Why would you choose to place Trusting Innocence in the hands of sinners like us? We are afraid to bow down, lest we be accused of sentimental weakness. We hesitate to embrace the joy, lest it turn to disappointment in the cruel realities of this world. Forgive us, God, and awaken the child within us, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Prayer for Illumination

The First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Solo: "Mary, Did You Know?"

Mark Lowry/Buddy Greene, arr. Tim Hayden

David Curtiss, *Baritone*

(b. 1958)/(b. 1953)

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And 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. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵ When 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Joy to the World”

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Offering

Offertory: “O Holy Night”

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

Adolphe Adam
(1803-1856)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

God of grace and peace, as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger and this simple meal together, let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world. Amen.

Carol: “Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

1. 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.

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf’ in himmlischer Ruh’
Schlaf’ in himmlischer Ruh’!

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.

Commission and Blessing

*As shepherds praised God for all they saw and heard,
We are commissioned to share Christmas joy.*

We join in glorifying and praising God.

We welcome the Christ into our hearts and homes.

Alleluia!

Amen.

Carol: "Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

1. 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.
4. 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.

Postlude: "Toccata in D"

Matthew Sonneborn, *Trumpet*

Giambattista Martini
(1706-1784)

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor

Judy Davis, Liturgist

Heather Mikes, Director of Christian Education

Drake DeBaun, Christian Education Intern

Dr. James Cochran, Director of Music,

playing the **Richard and Patricia Fors Organ** to the Glory of God and in honor of James Cochran, Organist.

Michele Byrd, Soprano

David Curtiss, Baritone

Matthew Sonneborn, Trumpet

Soundboard Operator: Pete DeBaun

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DONATED BY:

JAN & BOB CONRAD

In memory of our Parents & Grandparents

MOLLY GODLEY

In memory of Bill Godley

TIMOTHY HALL

In memory of Carolyn Wasson Hall

JIM & DEANE HAWKINS

In memory of our Parents

GEORGE & MARGARET MACKIE

In memory of Loved Ones

CAROLYN MAGARRO

In memory of Tom Magarro & other family members

BOB & DORIS MARTIN

In memory of Parents & Grandparents

BARBARA McELWAINE

In memory of Robert & Wilma Lieber

TERRY & KATHY MOREHOUSE

BRUCE & CHRIS MUDDALL

*In memory of Robert & Evelyn Heroy, Cecily Heroy,
and Clifford & Jean Muddall*

FRANK SCHMITT

In memory of Dorothy Schmitt

GERI & BILL PAYNE

In memory of Loved Ones

JEAN RAWSON

In memory of Annette Kocal

JOHN RIST

In honor of Jo B. Rist

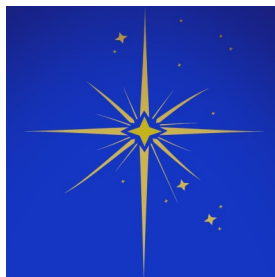
PATTY RUNKEL

In memory of Russell Geldmacher

ERIC STEINER

In memory of Loved Ones

SUE & BILL VAN FOSSEN



*The gift of love. The gift of peace. The gift of happiness.
May all these be yours at Christmas.
Merry Christmas!*

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The church is a member of the Peace River Presbytery, the Synod of South
Atlantic, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). OneLicense.net 3 A-719387

