



A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2021
5:00 PM
Christmas Eve

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

301 Guinness Drive ▪ Winterville, North Carolina 28590-9943 ▪ (252) 355-2273

www.peacepresbyterian.org

Grow in Grace, Live in Peace, Serve the Lord

We Gather as God's People

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Christmas Time Is Here
Three Christmas Carol Tunes

Vince Guaraldi

INTROIT

O Holy Night
Peggy Vaughan, Soprano

Adolphe Adam

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Jesse Riggs, Liturgist
Lighting the Advent Candles, Pam Riggs

"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;

**Authority rests upon his shoulders and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2,6)**

Tonight, we light the Christ candle, which represents the birth of God's Son in our world,
as a light forever shining in our darkness. And the darkness will never overcome it.

(the lighting of the Christ candle)

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Eternal God, from the tabernacle of heaven to the poverty of a stable, your radiant light shines forth in a tiny baby wrapped in rags and such love humbles and astounds us. In Jesus you have become one of us that we might become one with you. Open our hearts to joyfully receive his love that he may be born in us, and we in him, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

We Listen to God's Word

FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Samantha Crotty

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God."

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Samantha Crotty

Mary and Joseph Go to Bethlehem

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

HYMN

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

ANTHEM

Earth Has Many a Noble City

David Ashley White

Angels Appear to the Shepherds

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 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!"

HYMN**Angels We Have Heard on High**

GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

FOURTH LESSON**Luke 2:15-20**

Ann Barnhill

The Witness of the Shepherds

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

THE OFFERING**Offertory**

The Christmas Song

Mel Torme and Robert Wells
arr. Vince Guaraldi***Hymn of Dedication****What Child Is This?**

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Prayer of Dedication*We Respond to God's Grace****CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER****The Invitation****Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup**Prayer after Communion**

The Light Shines in the Darkness

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The Light of Christ be with you,

And also with you

Let us share the light of Christ with one another.

HYMN*Silent Night, Holy 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! 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.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.*

We Are Sent in God's Name***CHARGE & BLESSING**

May God who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the gospel. **Amen**

HYMN*Joy to the World**

ANTIOCH

*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.*

*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.*

Participating in Worship:

Rev. Debbie Osterhoudt, Preacher Liturgist: Jesse Riggs Lighting the Advent Candles: Pam Riggs
Peggy Vaughan, Music Director John Holter, piano Chancel Choir Worship Ministry Chair: Joanne Lang
Ron Skinner, audio/video Communion Team: Jim Bryant, Richard and Janet Johnson, Jesse Riggs
Ushers: Kelly McLean, Kevin and Stacey Skinner Readers: Samantha Crotty, Ann Barnhill
Mary: Maddy Crotty Joseph: Caroline Ortiz Angels: Emily Smith, Avery Taylor
Shepherds: Laura Ortiz, Owen Smith, Eli Taylor, Jacob Taylor

***You are invited to stand.**

Based on CDC data and the COVID 19 infection rate in our county and state, we are **requiring** that all people wear masks during worship. Masks are available at the welcome table.