



A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

WELCOME

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRELUDE

Sonata No. 84 in D major

Antonio Soler

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE PROPHET, BETHLEHEM, SHEPHERD AND ANGEL CANDLES

Cassie Billings, Liturgist

Lighting the Advent Candles: The Billings Family

One: "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)

All: The Advent Wreath reminds us of God's eternal love; without beginning and without end. The candles of the wreath remind us of the biblical story of God's unconditional love. We light the first candle of the Advent Wreath, the Prophets' candle, to remind us of the hope the prophets declared for the coming of the Messiah.

One: We light the second candle of the Advent Wreath, the Candle of Bethlehem, to remind us that Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem and it was there that their son Jesus was born in a stable.

All: We light the third candle of the Advent Wreath, the Shepherds' Candle, to remind us that the good news of great joy was first shared with ordinary shepherds while they cared for their sheep.

One: We light the fourth candle of the Advent Wreath, the Angels' Candle, to remind us that it was God's messengers, the angels, who proclaimed the good news of Jesus' birth.

***HYMN #119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

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 new-born king!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

During this season of the church year, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong with the world; how oppression enslaves; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety; how many people struggle to survive with a place to live and food to eat. We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships and our community. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. We pray in the savior's name and lift up our silent individual confessions.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Good news! Great joy! In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!
Glory to God in heaven and on earth, peace!

RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

We Share God's Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

SERMON

"Angels Among Us "

Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt

We Respond to God's Word

SPECIAL MUSIC

Oh, Sleep, My Dear Little Baby (A La Ru)

Hispanic Folk Song
arr. Arr. Michael Hawn

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from "A Brief Statement of Faith"

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God, Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

OFFERING

Offertory

Arietta

Adolf Skulte

Offertory Music

***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**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Peace Handbell Quartet

Divinum Mysterium (arr. Larry Sue)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND OUR 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.

***HYMN #113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

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!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born king. (Refrain)

We Go Forth As God's People

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

May the Love of the Lord

SOON TI

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.

May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.

May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

POSTLUDE

Valses Poeticos No 2. Allegro humoristico

Enrique Granados

***You are invited to stand.**

Worship Leadership Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt, Preacher Cassie Billings, Liturgist
Lighting the Advent Candles: The Billings Family Peggy Vaughan, Music Director John Holter, piano
Chancel Choir Ushers: Ruth Hines, Anna Bridgman Ron Skinner, audio and video
Worship Ministry Team Chair, Joanne Lang

WORSHIP NOTES 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.