



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

617 North Elm Street, Greensboro, North Carolina • fpcgreensboro.org

CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight and Communion Service

December 24, 2018 • 5:30 p.m. .

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

VOLUNTARY: Carols of the Season

John Alexander, organ

WELCOME.....Danny Massie

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Stroud Family, Advent Wreath Lighters

Leader: We continue our worship of God with the lighting of the Advent Candles.

People: As we prepare the way for the promised Messiah, we say together, "O come, O come, Emmanuel."

Leader: Tonight is Christmas Eve, the night when we light the Christ Candle.

People: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Leader: We light this candle tonight to remind us that the light of Christ breaks apart the chaos in our world.

People: Draw near us, God Incarnate; draw near to us this Christmas.

Leader: Let our hearts be filled with the mystery of Christ's incarnation.

People: Let us worship God!

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: No. 133 – O Come, All Ye Faithful..... ADESTE FIDELES

* PRAYER OF ADORATION.....Nate Sell

**Holy and Loving God, you came at night when all was still,
so enter our lives this night.
Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence,
that we may clearly see the way before us.
With singing angels, let us praise your name,
and tell the earth of his story,
that all may believe, rejoice and acknowledge your love.
Great is the hope to which we are called in Jesus Christ,
your Word made flesh, Emmanuel, who lives and reigns with you
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light,
God forever. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Isaiah 9:2b-7*

Reader: Nate Sell

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: Go Tell It On the Mountain arr. McLachlan

Rejoice! Ensemble

[Chorus]:

*Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain
Jesus Christ is born.*

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our savior's birth.

While shepherds kept their watch
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shown a holy light.

[Chorus]

[Chorus]
Down in a lonely manger
Our humble Christ was born,
And God sent salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

[Chorus]
When I am a seeker
I seek all night and day.

I seek the Lord to help
and he shows me the way.

[Chorus]

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Luke 2: 1-20* Parker Stroud

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Home For the Holidays Danny Massie

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* CAROL OF RESPONSE: No. 121 – O Little Town of Bethlehem..... ST. LOUIS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: A Christmas Creed..... Nate Sell

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need for forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH continues, over

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the Son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

– Walter Russell Bowie

OFFERING..... Dolly Jacobs

OFFERTORY: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly..... arr. Mack Wilberg
Chancel Choir

Infant Holy, Infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
Nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you

– Wzłobie Lezy

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and common time. The lyrics are: All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing To th'e - ter - nal_ Three in One: Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Danny Massie and Dolly Jacobs

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

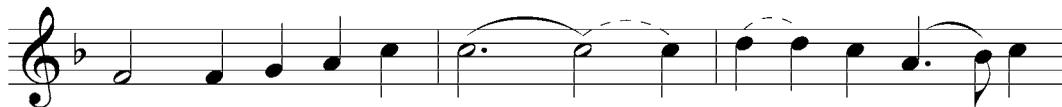
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: ... Therefore with all creation we sing your praise.



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
2. Bless - ed is he who comes



God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE (BY INTINCTION)

COMMUNION MUSIC: Selections from *Messiah*.....G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Recit: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth

Air: The people that walked in darkness

Ralph Davison, baritone

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people:
But the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:
And they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them hath the light shined.

Air: He Shall Feed His Flock

Anne Albert, soprano

Julie Celona-VanGorden, soprano

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd and he shall gather the lambs with his arm,
And carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto him, all ye that labour,
Come unto him, ye that are heavy laden, and he will give you rest.
Take his yoke upon you and learn of him;
For he is meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION..... Dolly Jacobs
followed by 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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT

As ushers light candles from the Christ Candle, they will share that light with people on the end of each pew. We ask that you share the light of Christ with the person sitting next to you, until everyone is holding the light of Christ.

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: Silent Night, Holy Night..... STILLE NACHT

*After the Chancel Choir sings a verse of "Stille Nacht",
the congregation is invited to begin singing "Silent Night".*

*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft, einsam wacht,
Nur das traute hochheiliger Paar,
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh'
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh'.*

**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.**

**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!**

* BENEDICTIONDanny Massie

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: No. 134 – Joy to the World! ANTIOCH

VOLUNTARY: Sortie sur "Adeste Fideles".....Pierre Cochereau (1924-1984)
John Alexander, organ

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Danny Massie, *Interim Pastor* | Dolly Jacobs, *Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care* |
Nate Sell, *Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident* | The Stroud Family, *Advent Wreath Lighters* |
Robert Wells, *Director of Chancel Choir* | John Alexander, *Director of Music Ministry and
Principal Organist* | James Keith, *Associate Director of Music for Rejoice!* |
Rejoice! Ensemble | Chancel Choir

DECEMBER 30

is Seminary Student Sunday, with one 10:30 a.m. worship service in the
sanctuary.

Nick Demuynck will be preaching. Nick, our former interim director of youth
ministry, is a student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. No nursery,
worship enrichment, or church school for children and youth.

JANUARY 6

Communion Sunday, 8:30 and 10:30 worship in sanctuary. 10:30 Rejoice! Nursery
and worship enrichment available. All classes begin their winter milestone classes.
Confirmation begins. *Look for more information about our adult church school offerings.*

HOLY COMMUNION

We invite all who trust in the Lord, including children, to come forward to
receive communion. The method of administering the sacrament will be by
intinction: dipping a piece of bread into the chalice filled with grape juice.
Worshippers will be invited pew by pew to come forward to pastors and elders
holding the bread and the cup to receive the Sacrament. We ask that you return
to your pew by way of the side aisles.

For those who would like to receive communion while seated,
our elders will be happy to accommodate your needs.

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