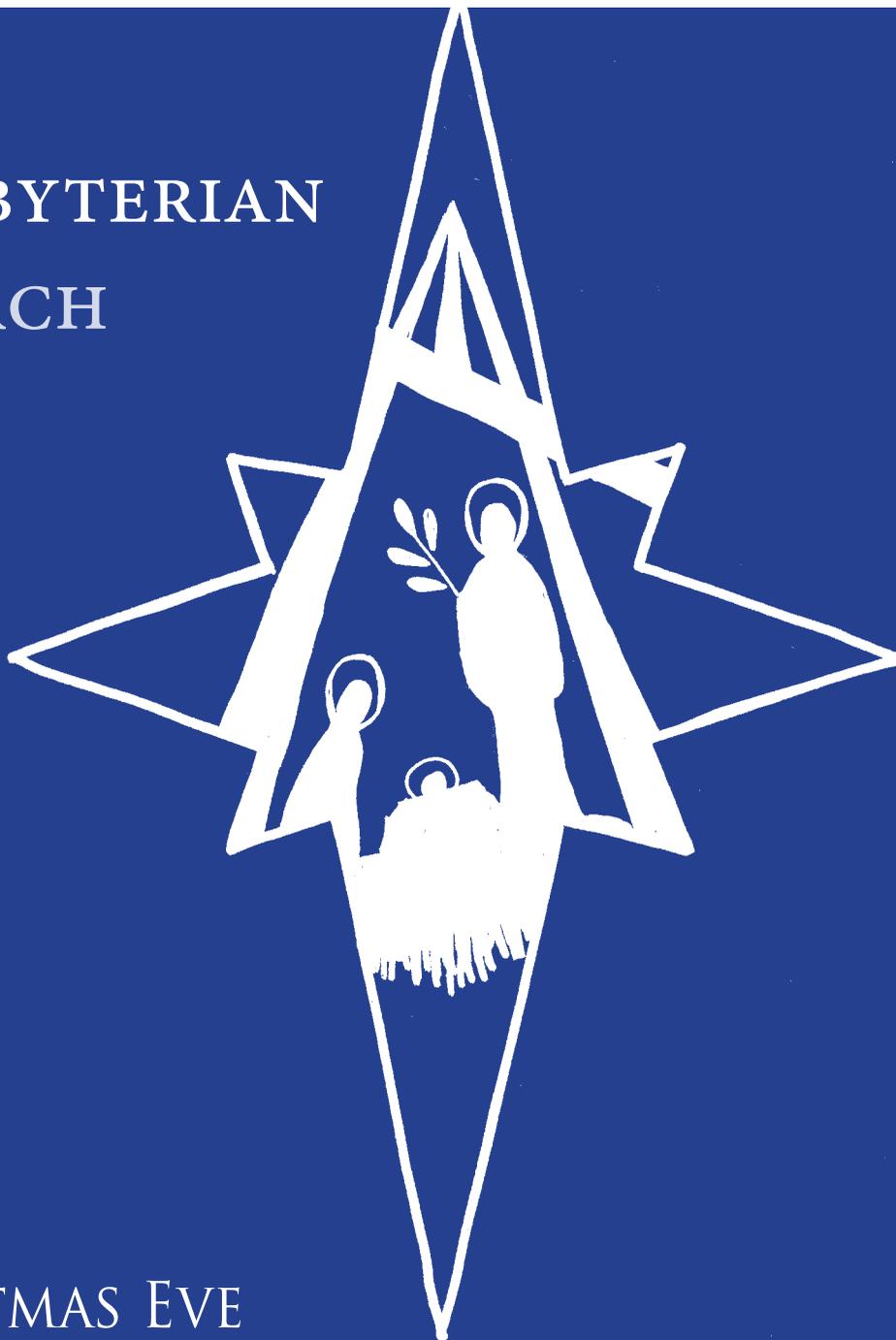


FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICE · 11 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Greensboro, North Carolina

Candlelight and Communion Service

December 24, 2018
11 o'clock p.m.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: Carols of the Season

John Alexander, organ

WELCOME Frances Boydoh and Remi Kate Short

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Anna Stewart Edmunds and Anabelle Short

Leader: After weeks of preparing and waiting, tonight we gather together to celebrate with our church the birth of our Messiah, Emmanuel, God with us.

People: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Leader: God of encounter, we pray that you enter our lives tonight as we arrive at the moment that Christ is born.

People: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Leader: As our waiting is done, we feel hope.

People: We light the candle of hope.

Leader: As our waiting is done, we receive the gift of peace.

People: We light the candle of peace.

Leader: As our waiting is done, we find joy in the Christ child.

People: We light the candle of joy.

Leader: As our waiting is done, we recognize the source of the love that knows no end.

People: We light the candle of love.

Leader: Tonight we celebrate the birth of our savior, Prince of Peace,
Lamb of God and Light of the World.

People: **We light the Christ candle in celebration of his birth.**

* BAGPIPE PROCESSIONAL: Highland Cathedral..... Ulrich Roever and Michael Korb
Johnny Burris, bagpipes

* PROCESSIONAL CAROL: No. 133 – O Come, All Ye FaithfulADESTE FIDELES

* PRAYER OF ADORATION (*in unison*) Cameron Jones

**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; such
humble Love astounds us. In Jesus you have become one with 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.**

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: *Luke 2:1-20* Kate Yarbrough and Kristine Shaw

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Isaiah 9:2b-7*
Caroline Cochran, reader

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: *John 1:1-14*
Clara Pope, reader

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION: In the Still of the Night Danny Massie

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* CAROL OF RESPONSE – No. 123: It Came Upon the Midnight ClearCAROL

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: A Christmas CreedEllie Cowan

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.

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

OFFERINGHowell Pierce

OFFERTORY: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel..... arr. Bernie Herms and Melodee DeVevo
Lentz McNeill, violin

PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....Howell Pierce

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Danny Massie and Nate Sell

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)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice..... IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice With heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now.
 Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT Tanner Hering

As youth 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. After the candles are lit, the congregation is invited to begin singing "Silent Night."

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: Silent Night, Holy NightSTILLE 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.**

**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.**

* BENEDICTIONWinston Cimino

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

VOLUNTARY: "Toccata" from *Symphony no. V* Charles-Marie Widor
John Alexander, organ

** Those who are able are invited to stand.*

THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Dannie Massey, *Interim Pastor* | Nate Sell, *Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident* |
Kevin Murray, *Director of Youth Ministry* | John Alexander, *Director of Music Ministry*
and Principal Organist | Johnny D. Burris, *Bagpipes* | *FPC Youth*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers

Lydia Cochrane | Cason Pierce | Perrin Maultsby | Flinn Hering |
Brooks Farrabow | Ada Kirkland | Tilley Kirkland | Eliza Barnett

Communion

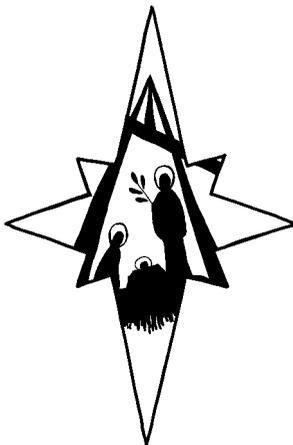
Class of 2019: Kristine Shaw and Kate Yarbrough

Class of 2018: Isabelle Lauver, Emma Winstead and Davis Jones

Class of 2017: Charlie Sanderson and Mac Maultsby

Class of 2016: Walton Chamblee and Kathleen Rightsell

Class of 2015: Annalise Graves and Caroline Yarbrough



WWW.FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

Music reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net A-707283.

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. Worshipers 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.

COVER ARTWORK by Megan Abbot.

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