

First Presbyterian Church

For Christ in the Heart of Charlotte

Founded in 1821

Order of Worship

*Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021
8 p.m.*

Preparation

Prelude

Variations on Adeste Fideles

Marcel Dupré

Chiming of the Trinity

Adoration

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Ed and Page Kizer

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them, light has shined.

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**All: to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.**



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Opening Prayer

The Reverend Robert Galloway

One: Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father:

All: You came not in majesty but in a manger. You came when it was dark, not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues the weary; but the frightening darkness, in which people have lost their hope.

One: You came when it was dark, looking so much like one of us, and yet inviting us to become like you.

All: You came as light, a kind of light we had never seen before, the kind of light that made us aware, perhaps for the first time, just how dark the darkness had become.

One: You came as light, and the darkness has not overcome it.

All: Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father, swaddled, hungry baby, born for the people who walk in the dark. We adore you, our light, our life, God's living word become flesh. Amen.

Anthem

"On Christmas Night" (Sussex Carol)

arr. Philip Ledger

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring: news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful king's birth. Then why should all on earth be so sad since our redeemer made us glad, when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty? When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place; angels and all with joy may sing all for to see the king. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: Glory to God and peace to all, now and forever more. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

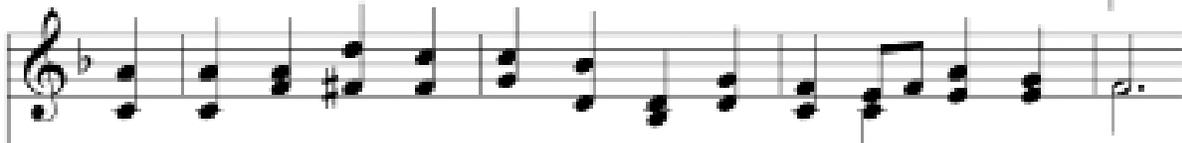
Luke 2:1-7

Meditation

The Reverend Pen Peery



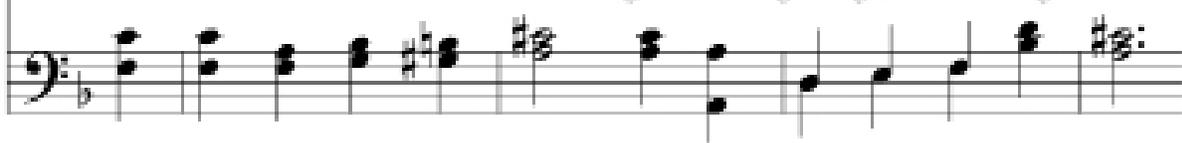
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



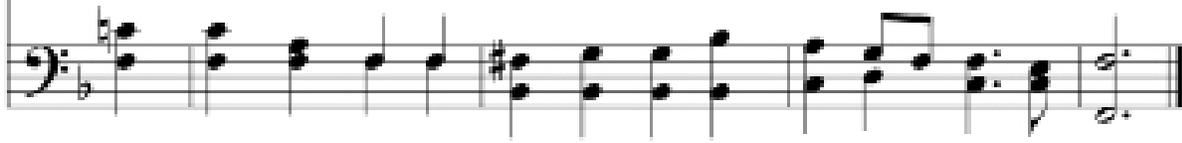
A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Meditation

The Reverend Lorenzo Small, Sr.

Anthem

"Mary Had a Baby"
FUPC Praise Team

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

The Reverend Anna Dickson

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.

Christmas Offering

Roof Above

Offertory Anthem

"Still, Still, Still"

arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping. Holy Star, its vigil keeping. Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth. The night is peaceful all around you. Close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth. Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber, dream, dream, dream o the joyous day to come.

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing the Light of Christ

*Carol

"Silent Night, Holy Night"
During the final stanza, please lift your candle.

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! 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.

*Benediction

The Christmas Eve offering will be collected for Roof Above. Their mission is to serve as the catalyst for systemic change to end homelessness in our community.

We are glad you are worshipping with us today!

We welcome all to First Presbyterian Church as we worship together, knowing that each of us is a beloved part of the body of Christ.

Our Pastors

Pendleton B. Peery
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William P. Young, III
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Are you interested in joining our church?

Contact Jane Ives
Membership Coordinator
jives@firstpres-charlotte.org

Pastor on call
If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

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704.332.5123

First Presbyterian Church Announcements

First Presbyterian Church Closures

December 27-28, Closed for Christmas Holidays

December 29-30, Church building closed - staff working remotely

December 31, Closed for New Year's Holiday

TEXT GIVING – You can quickly donate to the church through TEXT GIVING. See the example below.

- Text to 73256
- Content of the text needs to be – givetofpc followed by a \$ and the dollar amount.
- You will be prompted to enter your payment information.
- You will receive an email receipt of payment.

