



Clemmons Presbyterian Church

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 2017

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship here this evening.

PRELUDE "One Night in Bethlehem" arr. Lamb
Sanctuary Bells

"Chanson Criste" Koussevitsky
Zane Holloman

"Christmas Bell Rejoicing" arr. Ryan
Sanctuary Bells

"Sheep May Safely Graze" Bach
Steve Seawright

WELCOME William Hoyle

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Neal and Wendy Duncan

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", stanza 7, #88

All (sung): O come, Desire of nations bind, all people in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Reader 1: We have lit candles the four Sundays of Advent to remind us to watch.

Reader 2: Tonight we remember the story "While Mary and Joseph were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her son, wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger." (Luke 2: 6-7)

Reader 1: Tonight we give thanks for this child and light this Christ Candle.

Reader 2: We give thanks for every child among us, that reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, and the promise of God. In God's promise we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

All (sung): "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

*HYMN #133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On this night, O God we confess that we do not want to confess.

We do not want to examine our hearts before you and admit to the dark places. We want you to warm us in candlelight and carols. We desire soft light tonight; not the blinding shining of your glory that terrified the shepherds. We cannot stand in that light.

God among us, forgive us. Help us hear your angel saying, "Do not be

afraid." Flood our hearts with the light that drives out all our darkneses. Straighten our backs and loose our timid tongues that we too might sing your praises and accept your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us now as we pray in silence, for we pray in Jesus' name.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #147 v. 6 "The First Nowell"

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born is the King of Israel.**

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER Patrick McElwaine

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

ANTHEM "Would I Miss A Miracle?" Joseph Martin

EPISTLE LESSON Titus 2:11-14

*HYMN #122 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-14

*HYMN #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

HOMILY William Hoyle

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Everyone is encouraged to sign, date, and pass the pew pad down your row, noting your neighbors upon its return.

OFFERTORY

“Siciliano”
Jenna Caputi, flute

Bach

THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(The lights will be dimmed and the ministers will light a candle from the Christ Candle. Light will then be passed from worshipper to worshipper. To light your candle, tip your wick into the flame of the candle from which you are lighting. Please keep your candle upright once lit.)

*CLOSING CAROL

“Joy to the World”

Please raise your candles, higher on each verse, lifting your light to the world as we sing.

**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.**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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.**

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please extinguish your candle before you exit.

*POSTLUDE

“Christmas Praise”

Logan

Nursery care for infant to preschoolers is available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Join us for worship New Year’s Eve at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

If you donated a poinsettia feel free to take it with you this evening.