

The Chapel in the Pines

December 24, 2023

*Serving our Community by Preaching, Teaching,
and Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

A Christmas Eve Service of Carols, Candles, and Communion



Gathering Music

The Chiming of the Trinity

The Prelude

A Reading from the Old Testament Isaiah 9:2, 6

***The Call to Worship**

Star Child

Murray/Young

Choir: Star-Child, earth-Child, go between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, Heaven's lightning rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

People: Come into our hearts today.

**People: Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!**

Leader: Open our hearts today, Lord Jesus.

People: Help us to receive you.

**People: Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!**

Leader: Help us to reach out to each other, Lord Jesus.

People: Illuminate our path this night.

**People: Spared Child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!**

Leader: Remind us of the needs of the world, Lord Jesus.

People: Help us to witness to your Light by serving others.

**People: Hope for peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down to earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!**

Mary, Did you Know?

Soloist/Ravon Shepherd

Lowry/Greene

The Invocation and 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever...Amen.**

A Reading from the Psalms

Adapted from Psalm 96:1-4

Sophie Collins



***Hymn** #133 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

- 1** Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."
- 2** Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."
- 3** Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."



A Reading from the Gospel of John John 1:1-5, 14-18
And the Word became flesh and lived among us...

Rowan Collins

The Advent Wreath Candle Lighting - The Christ Candle Claire Collins/Ryland McCloskey

Congregation singing to the tune of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*.

**The can-dles burn, all five a-light,
the day at last is come.
The Sa-viour's birth we ce-le-brate;
let fear and gloom be gone.
For hope and peace and love and joy
be-long to everyone.
Light a can-dle for J-e-sus the King.
Wel-come him!
Light a c-an-dle for J-e-sus the King.**

The Call to the Offering

Because God so loved the world,
God sent the Son into the world.

**In response to this good news of great joy,
we offer songs of praise, tithes and offerings, and acts of service.**

The Offertory

***Congregation sings;** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

**Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air,
but only his mother,
in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the Beloved
with a kiss.**



**What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man
I would do my psrt,
yet what I can give him,
give him my heart.**

***The Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** #137 What Child Is This?

1 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?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

2 Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. **[Refrain]**

3 So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. **[Refrain]**

The Prayer of Illumination

Jade Baker

A Reading from the Gospels Luke 2:1-20

*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth
and laid him in a manger...*

Homily The Child-Force

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Solist Ravon Shepherd

MacGimsey



The Sacrament of Holy Communion



Our Lord God is with us, lift your hearts and voices high, let us give thanks to the Lord everywhere and at all times.

Congregation sings: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God, all glory be to you at this blessed Christmas time; for the gift of your own dear Son, born a poor child, peasant king. For the love you sent to us, for the life he shared with us, for the sacrifice he made; Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Congregation sings: We'll praise His name forever, We'll praise His name forever, We'll praise His name forever, Christ the Lord.

O God, on the night before he died, the Lord Jesus took bread and after giving you thanks, he took it and broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take. Eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant, sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Congregation sings: We'll give Him all the glory, We'll give Him all the glory, We'll give Him all the glory, Christ the Lord.

When we eat this bread and when we drink this cup we proclaim the saving life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ until he comes again.

Congregation sings: For He alone is worthy, For He alone is worthy, For He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord.

Now accept our sacrifice as a surrender of ourselves. Send your Holy Spirit on us here and on these gifts. Help us, through this bread and cup to know the presence of Christ. Make us one with him today and one with all who seek to be truly and fully human

Congregation sings: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

All are invited to receive Communion regardless of age, religious affiliation, or denominational background. Jesus is the host of this meal and He invites all who would come. If you would come down the center aisle as the ushers direct you, with your two hands cupped to receive the bread and then the cup will be offered...following that is a place to dispose of your cup. Please return to your seats by the side aisles.

*The gifts of God for the people of God...**Thanks be to God!***

***Prayer after Communion**



*The Light of Christ

*Hymn #147 Silent Night! Holy Night!

1 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.

2 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!

3 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.



*Hymn #138 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. **[Refrain]**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. **[Refrain]**

3 Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

*The Blessing

The Congregational Choral Response

#125 Joy to the World (verse 1)

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth re-ceive her King.
Let ev'ry heart pre-pare him room, and heav'n and na-ture sing,
and heav'n and na-ture sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and na-ture sing.**

*The Postlude

Reverend Doctor Paul James
Reverend Denise DuLion
Music Director, Kristen Thompson

Ministers: The people of the Chapel in the Pines



Unto Us A Savior is Born