

# *The Chapel in the Pines*

**December 29, 2024**

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

## **Nativity of the Lord A Service of Lessons and Carols**



### **Gathering Music**

**The Chiming of the Trinity**

**The Prelude**

**The Concerns, Celebrations, and Prayers of our Chapel Family**

**\*The Congregational Choral Call to Worship**

#131 Angels, from the Realms of Glory (verse #1)

**Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth.  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

## **\*The Invocation**

### **\*A Litany for the First Sunday of Christmas**

Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, the Son of God is born.  
**God's word has been made flesh among us.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them a light has shined.**

You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.  
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.  
**His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

He is also called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*Hymn** #136 The First Noel (verses 1 and 2)

**1** The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain:**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

**2** They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. **[Refrain]**

### **A Christmas Prayer 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.**

### **The Choir's Anthem**

**The First Lesson** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
*For a child has been born – for us! The gift of a son – for us!*

**Hymn** #137 What Child Is This (verse 1)

**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.

**The Second Lesson**            Isaiah 11:1-9  
*...and a little child will tend them.*

**Hymn**                            #160 Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming (verses 1 & 2)

**1** Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a Flower bright,  
Amid the cold of winter  
When half-gone was the night.

**2** Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind:  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
She bore to men a Savior  
When half-gone was the night.

**The Third Lesson**            Luke 1:26-35, 38  
*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest hover over you; Therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God.*

**Hymn**                            #141 O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 and 2)

**1** O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

**2** For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

**The Fourth Lesson**            Matthew 1:18-23  
*She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus – "God saves" – because he will save his people from their sins.*



**\*Hymn** #127 Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne (verses 1 and 2)

**1** Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,  
When Thou camest to earth for me;  
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room  
For Thy holy nativity.

**Refrain:**

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus -  
There is room in my heart for Thee!

**2** Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
Proclaiming Thy royal decree;  
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,  
And in great humility. **[Refrain]**

**The Fifth Lesson** Luke 2:8-16

*...the shepherders talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us."*

**Hymn** #128 It Came upon the Midnight Clear (verses 1 and 2)

**1** It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From heav'n's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

**2** Still thru the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

**The Sixth Lesson** Matthew 2:1-11

*Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. They opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.*

**\*Hymn** #163 As with Gladness Men of Old

**1** As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to Thee.

**2** As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him Whom heav'n and earth adore,  
So, may we with willing feet  
Ever seek the mercy seat.

## The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

### \*The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### \*The Prayer of Dedication

**A Christmas Meditation**      A Christmas Carol – Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1856

**The Seventh Lesson**      John 1:1-14  
*We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son...*

**\*Hymn**      #162 the Birthday of a King

**1** In the little village of Bethlehem,  
there lay a Child one day,  
And the sky was bright with a holy light  
o'er the place where Jesus lay.

**Refrain:**

Alleluia! O how the angels sang.  
Alleluia! How it rang!  
And the sky was bright with a holy light,  
'twas the birthday of a King.

**2** 'Twas a humble birth-place, but oh, how much  
God gave to us that day,  
From the manger bed what a path has led,  
what a perfect, holy way. **[Refrain]**

### \*The Charge and Benediction

### \*The Postlude

*Lessons and Carols had its origin at Truro Cathedral (England) on Christmas Eve 1880, when a service of scripture and supporting carols was developed by the Bishop of Truro, F.W. Benson. Some thirty-eight years later in 1918, this format was adapted for Christmas Eve at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. The BBC broadcast from King's College helped to popularize the Service of Lessons and Carols, and it was quickly duplicated by cathedrals and small churches throughout the world. The heart of the service continues to this day – that is, the retelling of the Christian's*



**Prayers for Chapel Friends:**



Patty and Jack Madden, Judy Karp, Phil Westerman, Nancy Cecchini, Phyllis Mahin, Gerry Crow, Holli Schweyher, Rev. Gary Sawtelle, David Tourt, Baby Owen Daniels, Roger Racster, Walter Hundley, Janet Hege-man, Jean Schmidt, Rev. Bill and Marty Bruner, Dick Barry, Jackie White, Paul Infuso, Noah Presley, Tom Early, Cindy Hess, Lyn Garbarino, Jim Robinson, Carol Dunn, Mary Faas, Dapte Jay Kirit, Dwight and Faye Jessup, Baby Kendrick Goins, George Restrepo, Cathy Pope, Gary McCaskill, Rev. Bill Cain, and Maggie Craft.

**Prayers for Chapel Family:**

Rev. Charles Hinson, Bud Holzerland, Dave Westerman, Butch & Mary Kay Allen, Glenda and Jo Clendenin, Mary Tuft, Phil Thingstad, Marilyn & Jimmy McCaskill, Ma-ma Dot, Mary Willetts, Bob Tourt, Lee Connelly, Kathy Steele, Shirley Percival, Jane and Jeff Lowe, Peggy Olson, Sue Van Horne, and Bart Reuter.

January Announcements

Looking Ahead!

<b>Sunday-December 29</b>	9:00 am	Lessons and Carols
<b>Wednesday-January 1</b>		<b>Happy New Year! Welcome 2025</b>
<b>Sunday-January 5</b>	9:00 am	Epiphany Sunday
<b>Wednesday-January 8</b>	2:30 pm	Fran’s Friends
	4:30 pm	Chapel Choir
<b>Friday-January 10</b>	10:00 am	Mission Team
<b>Saturday-January 11</b>	7:45 am	Men’s Fellowship
<b>Sunday-January 12</b>	9:00 am	Baptism of the Lord Sunday
<b>Tuesday-January 14</b>	600 pm	Bunco4Missions
<b>Wednesday-January 15</b>	4:30 pm	Chapel Choir
<b>Sunday-January 19</b>	9:00 am	The Third Sunday after Epiphany
<b>Wednesday-January 22</b>	4:30 pm	Chapel Choir

Coffee Fellowship

**December**

**12-29** Chris Beck

**January**

**1 - 5 Volunteer Needed**

**1-12** Sue Dell’Acqua



Altar Flowers

**December**

**12-22** Alice McPheeters

**12-24** Amy Collins  
Sandi Keyser

**12-29** Shirley Madison

**January**

**1-01 Volunteer Needed**

**1-12** Bill & Peggy Ussery

**1-19** Gisela Danielson



Birthdays

**January**

**Thursday—2**

Laurie Faig







## **Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Special Christmas Eve Offering**

The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Board of Directors would like to invite you to contribute to our Special Christmas Eve Offering in support of the Black Mountain Home, who sustained the loss of two of their buildings during hurricane Helene this past October. Please see the following information from their website:

*Whether you've been part of our Black Mountain Home family for years or are a new friend, we invite you to join us in caring for the ~170 children who are relying on us this year—children who have endured neglect, abuse, abandonment, and other unimaginable hardships. Seeing the fear they experienced during Hurricane Helene strengthened our resolve to protect, nurture, and love children who have not had the chance to feel wanted, protected, and cherished. Your support will help ensure what matters most: being a loving, Christian home for children in need.*

*Your season of giving donation means more than a warm bed and a full tummy—it means healing and hope. It is the gift of childhood, of family, and of having a place to belong. During this holiday season, your kindness offers a lasting message of hope, showing them they are never alone, no matter the storms they face.*

*To help continue caring for children through this storm, generous donors who understand our urgent needs have pledged to double your gift up to \$500,000. Thank you for helping provide our children with the security and love of family. This is their home, and with your help, we can continue strong.*

If you would like to give to this Special Christmas Eve Offering, you may do so by placing your check written out to Chapel in the Pines with the memo of "Christmas Eve Offering" in our offering plate on Sunday or during our Christmas Eve Service. Any donations given through the end of the year designated for "Christmas Eve Offering" will be given to the Children's Home in Black Mountain, NC.



Thank you for supporting our kids through life's storms.