



CHRISTMAS EVE 2020
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina
Matt Drumheller, Pastor

Church Office: (704) 982-2722
December 24, 2020

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org
5:30 p.m.

PRELUDE

Christmas Carols for String Quartet
arranged by Matthew Naughtin
The Piedmont Triad String Quartet

<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	German Carol
<i>Come, Ye Shepherds and Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	Czech and German Carols
<i>What Child Is This?</i>	English Ballad
<i>Carol of the Drum</i>	A Carol of Czech Origin
<i>Carol of the Bells</i>	Ukrainian Carol
<i>Bring a Torch Jeannette, Isabella</i>	French Carol
<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i>	German Carol

SOLO

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Andy Cotton, Baritone and The Piedmont Triad String Quartet

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope this weary soul rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices. O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O holy night, O night divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand;
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King, before Him lowly bend.

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love, and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name;
Christ is the Lord, O, praise His name forever. His power and glory evermore proclaim.

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

This season we have dreamed of a world of peace.

We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.

We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.

We dreamed of doors open wide and a cure to disease.

We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.

For to dream is to hope, to dream is to see.

So make room in your soul to dream yet again,

Of a world without fear, and a God who draws near.

For it is almost Christmas.

Love is almost here.

May we dream to see, and hope to believe. Let us worship God.

PRAYER

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created! (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

(First Presbyterian Church Worship Archive December 17, 2017)

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Ella, Michelle, and Steve Cumming

The acolyte lights the Christ candle. The acolyte tonight is Seth Richards.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

(First Presbyterian Church Worship Archive December 24, 2018)

THE CHILDREN'S STORY

SOLO

Away in a Manger

Mack Wilberg

Ann Crutchfield, Soprano Frank Poolos, Oboe The Piedmont Triad String Quartet

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

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, of the joyous day to come.

(First Presbyterian Church Worship Archive December 24, 2019)

NEW TESTAMENT READING
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Luke 2:1-20

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Transfiguration by Madeleine L'Engle

Reverend Drumheller

CAROL 134

Joy to the World

Antioch

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 earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their 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.

(First Presbyterian Church Worship Archive December 24, 2019)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Anthem

I Wonder as I Wander

John Jacob Niles

Ann Crutchfield, Soprano

The Piedmont Triad String Quartet

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die,
For poor orn'ry people like you and like I, I wonder as I wander, ...out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
And high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of the ages, ...they then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, He surely could've had it, 'cause he was the King.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory

Christmas Concerto, Opus 6, No. 8 - Pastorale
The Piedmont Triad String Quartet and Organ

Arcangelo Corelli

Prayer of Dedication

CANDLELIGHTING

Silent Night

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.

(First Presbyterian Church Worship Archive December 24, 2019)

Handbell Ensemble

Rebekah Ayscue, Spencer Ayscue, Martha Sue Hall, Adam Jolly,
Katherine Jolly, Liz Jolly, and Morgan Hall Schultz

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

A Christmas Blessing

Philip W.J. Stopford

May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the worship of the wisemen,
And the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly, fill you with joy and peace.
And the blessing of God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

(First Presbyterian Church Worship Archive December 17, 2017)

POSTLUDE

We Wish You a Merry Christmas
The Piedmont Triad String Quartet

English Carol
arr. Matthew Naughtin

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The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is open to all who trust in Jesus Christ and to those who want to trust him more. As a sign of our unity in Christ, we will partake together on cue from the pastor.

Thanks to Duncan Bryson and Ken Knight for helping create the Christmas Eve video. Thank you to Andy Cotton, Ann Crutchfield, Ella Cumming, Michelle Cumming, and Steve Cumming for their participation in worship. Thanks to our instrumentalists from The Piedmont Triad String Quartet – Sarah Womack (violin), Ruth Metheny (violin), Dan Skidmore (viola), and Gayle Masarie (cello), and the First Presbyterian Church Handbell Ensemble - Rebekah Ayscue, Spencer Ayscue, Martha Sue Hall, Adam Jolly, Katherine Jolly, Liz Jolly, and Morgan Hall Schultz.

The acolyte this evening is Seth Richards. Following worship, the acolyte takes the light of Christ out into the world.

A contemplative Christmas Eve worship video will be streamed via YouTube at 11:00 p.m.

The 30th Annual Community Christmas Dinner will take place on Friday, December 25 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (or until all boxes are gone) at First Baptist Church (202 North 2nd Street, Albemarle).

Liturgy in this worship service adapted from prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.