

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

December 24, 2016

8:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Rasley

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Young

“There’s a Song in the Air”

Wells

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Young

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

Bach

THE GATHERING

*WELCOME & RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ Savior Children’s Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Phil and Ann Allen,
Amy and Amanda Ritchie*

BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner

*HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

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!

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*)

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

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15 (responsively)

Linda VanPelt

Leader: The story of God’s gift of human redemption, which we celebrate this Christmas Eve began when Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze. The man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

People: He said, “I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

(continued →)

Leader: God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

People: The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit from the tree, and I ate.”

Leader: Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

People: The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

Leader: The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

ALL: This is the story of our fall, the beginning of sins bondage and the purpose of Jesus Christ’s redemption.

*HYMN

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

PICARDY

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2a-7

Ed Kuspert

“O Holy Night”

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Kevin Hamilton

ANTHEM

“Mary Did You Know?” Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7 (responsively)

Marcia Graybeal

Leader: And a child shall lead them. The words of the prophet linger in our ears. Improbable as they may have seemed, God was faithful to his promise. Will you join me in the immortal story of our salvation.

People: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor or Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” Behold our Savior has come.

*HYMN

“Away in a Manger”

CRADLE SONG

Away in a manger, no crib for His 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.

*HYMN

“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

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?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

*HYMN

“Still, Still, Still”

STILL, STILL, STILL

Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep
While angel hosts from heaven come winging,
Sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep.

THE FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-5; 9-14

Rev. Campbell Gardner
Rev. Sergio Schmidt

*HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

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 God-head see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Please in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

MEDITATION

ANTHEM

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Gauntlett

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & 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 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.

THE WORDS OF THE INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(Please come forward, starting with the back row and moving forward down the center aisle to receive communion. Please return to your seats using the side aisles.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God and Father of Jesus, you have sent your Son to be our Savior: our light in the midst of darkness, our hope in the face of threats, our peace amid turmoil. In your Word and Supper we have seen him and know that your promises are true. Send us forth from this assembly to live in hope and peace, until we gather again to worship at his table. This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

GIVING GOD'S TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory "Away in a Manger" Kirkpatrick
*Doxology 592 OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SENDING

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*CAROL "Silent Night" STILLE NACHT

1	2
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.
3	4
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, Alleluias to our king; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

*CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

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*An asterisk indicates that all who are able may stand.

TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to our worship, and we ask that you sign our Ritual of Friendship as it is passed along the pew. We hope that you will return to worship with us again! We have a nursery lovingly and carefully attended by church members.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome into membership all who love Jesus Christ, accept him as Lord of all life, and seek to serve him as part of his body in the church. We invite you to speak to one of our elders, greeting you at the door as you leave the worship service.

PASTORAL COUNSELING

Presbyterian Psychological Services is an integrated, interdisciplinary center for psychiatry, psychology, pastoral counseling, career counseling, and community education. We are committed to empowering all individuals, couples, and families in our community to heal and grow in an atmosphere of safety and clinical expertise.

704-554-9900 ~ www.presbypsych.org

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Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner:
704-431-3700 (cell), 704-934-3457 (home)

The Session and Staff of Bethpage Presbyterian Church of Kannapolis wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, may he again be born in our hearts, may our faith be renewed, and may our commitment to follow him be strengthened.



Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

December 24, 2016

"A family of faith
yesterday, today, and tomorrow."

We are excited that you have joined us in worshipping God this evening. If you are a visitor, please pick up a church information brochure, found in the pew holders. Please, let us get to know you a little better by filling out the information card, inside the brochure. You can drop it in the offering plate. Whether you are just visiting, looking to stay or have worshipped here your whole life, it is great to worship the Lord together this day!