

# A Celebration with Scripture, Carols and the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 6:00 P.M. December 24, 2011

## An invitation to parents of infants and young children:

Let us minister to you and your children. If you desire childcare, an usher will be happy to direct you to the nursery. It is professionally staffed and is nearby in our Education Building.

\* indicates those able are standing

## Voluntaries

*A Celebration of Carols*

Adrienne Searer, Larry Freiman

*Gesu Bambino*

Julie Darsie, Flute; Robert George, Soprano Saxophone

Matt Brittain, Organ

## The Light of the World

John 1:1-14

## \*Processional Carol

*Once In Royal David's City*

IRBY

Once in royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her Baby, In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall:  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;  
For that Child so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heaven above:  
And He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone.

## Lighting the Christ Candle (Emma Goudas)

Isaiah 9:2-7

## Anthem

*Angels' Carol*

Chancel Choir

## The Birth of Jesus:

Luke 2:1-7

\***Carol** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

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.

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love,  
Oh morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.

## The Shepherds and the Angels: Luke 2:8-14

**Anthem** *Bring A Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*  
Chancel Choir

## The Shepherds at Bethlehem: Luke 2:15-20

**Anthem** *What Child Is This*  
(Julie Darsie Flute; Robert George, Saxophone)

**Sermon** *Perhaps...Christmas* Rev. Rob Hinman

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Invitation to the Table

\***Carol** *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!  
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!  
O come, let us adore Him . . .

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him . . .

## Prayer of Confession and 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.

**Carol** *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,  
Heav'nly 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.

## Words of Institution and Distribution of the Elements

(So that we eat and drink together, we invite you to hold the bread until all are served. Also with the cup, using the pew holders if needed.)

## Communion Music

*O Holy Night*

Brian Clark, Tenor; Barbara Freiman, Piano

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

Alicia Colvard, Soprano; Barbara Freiman, Piano

## Prayer after Communion

**Anthem** *Still, Still, Still* (Chancel Choir/Julie Darsie)

Candles are in baskets under the pews at the center aisle end. Please pass the candles to those on your pew. The ushers will light the candles at the end of each row.

*“You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”* Matthew 5:14-16

**\*Carol** *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...

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

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love...

*Please extinguish your candle following the hymn and place it in the cans in the Narthex as you leave the Sanctuary.*

## \*Benediction

**\*Postlude** “The Hallelujah Chorus” *Messiah* G. F. Handel  
(You are invited to turn and face the choir,  
and to sing along as you wish.)

Please join us tonight at 11:30 p.m. in the Chapel for “On the Eve of Christmas,” an informal service that ends with the Sacrament of Holy Communion at midnight as we greet Christmas Day.  
Come as you are; but focused on God.

## The Christmas Story: Jesus Is Born

Luke 2:1-20 (King James Version)

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup>(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup>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:) <sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup>And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

<sup>15</sup>And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. <sup>16</sup>And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

<sup>19</sup>But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



**Christmas Eve 2011**

First Presbyterian Church  
Lenoir, North Carolina