

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Northside Presbyterian Church – Blacksburg, Virginia

December 24, 2020

6:00 pm

GATHERING MUSIC – *“Softly the Night is Sleeping”*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in this holy place to bear witness to the Light.

The love of God shines upon us and reveals the truth of God’s mercy.

We gather in this holy place to bear witness to the Truth.

The truth of our gospel is good news for the oppressed and a balm for the brokenhearted.

HYMN – *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

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, O come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

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, O come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 9:2-7 – the Frimpong Family

SPECIAL MUSIC – *“I Heard from Heaven Today”* – Simple Gifts

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE – Ernie and Sue Bentley

On the eve of our Christmas celebration, Jesus’ birthday, we light all of the candles of the Advent wreath. We light the first candle to declare that Christ, the Son of God, is coming again.

We light the second candle with hope, to remember to keep watching and waiting.

We light the third candle to prepare his way today and every day.

We light the fourth candle to show that we are his servants.

Finally we light the center candle. This is the CHRIST candle.

We celebrate the coming of Jesus as a baby. He has come! He is our salvation. We look forward to his glorious second coming when he will make all things new.

Let us pray:

Great God of love and light, we thank you now for the light of Jesus Christ over two thousand years ago that guided humble shepherds and learned wise men to the holy babe. Lead us now, by the light of your love, that we also may follow you to new life in him. In celebration of the birthday of our King and our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

CHIME RESPONSE and placing baby Jesus in the manger – *“Away in a Manger”*

OLD TESTAMENT – Micah 5:2-5a – the Gray Family

SPECIAL MUSIC – *“I Wonder As I Wander”* - Simple Gifts

GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-7

MEDITATION – Linda Dickerson

SPECIAL MUSIC – *“Let All Mortal Flesh/Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”* – Walt Bostian

GOSPEL – Luke 2:8-20 – Rev. Allison Unroe and Drew Taylor

SPECIAL MUSIC – *“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen/Sing We Now of Christmas”* – Ann Marie Conner

GOSPEL – from John 1:1-5; 9, 14, 16 - read responsively

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.*

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

and we have seen his glory . . . full of grace and truth.

THE CANDLELIGHTING

CAROL *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

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! 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.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE LIGHT

In the midst of darkness, candles have shone.

Glory to God in the highest!

In the midst of darkness, we have seen the light of Christ!

Glory to God in the highest!

In the midst of darkness, we have been promised peace and good will.

Glory to God in the highest!

In the midst of darkness, we go forth to be the light of Christ.

Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace, goodwill to all. Alleluia! Amen.

CAROL*

"Joy to the World"

**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 world! 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.**

**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.**

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Please be in prayer for:

Revathi Balakrishnan
Susan Dickerson
Bonnie Church
Drew Taylor

Edd Stoops
Mary Lough
Doug Rathjen
Deborah Long

The Hale/McMahan family
Floyd Long
The Lough family

Tonight's musicians: Marya Katz, Charles Bostian, Ann Marie Conner, Jack Webster, Pat Fullen, Walt Bostian, Aran Garnett-Deakin, Hand Chimes Choir
Video Technician – Marshall Chaney