

Family Christmas Eve Service

Aisquith Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2014
6:00 PM

*You are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.*
Matthew 1:21

Prelude

Shepherds, Leave Your Sheep

Roques
Mrs. Gloria Hague, Director of Music

Call to Worship

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

Jesus Christ is the brightest revelation of God's love. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (Col. 1:15).

"Christ Jesus, who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped" (Phil. 2:6).

"But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" (Phil. 2:7).

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory. The glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

We light this candle to remind us, to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Invocation

The Word Foretold

*Carol No. 208 (vv. 1-3)

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.***

God of God, Light of Light;
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
very God, begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of hea'v above;
glory to God in the highest;

The Old Testament Reading

(selected passages)

Genesis 12:1f.

The LORD [said] to Abram...”I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Genesis 49:10f

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.

2 Samuel 7:11, 12, 16

[And the LORD said to David], “The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom... Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6, 7

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and up upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD will accomplish this.

Micah 5:2f.

But you, Bethlehem Ephratha, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old from ancient times...He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

*Carol No. 203

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 th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heav’n 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 th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

The Word Welcomed

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-16

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Special Music

German Traditional Carol Isabella

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Wendy Wickham, soloist

The Offering of Our Thanks

Offertory

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Spiritual

A Story of Christmas

Rick Osborne

The Legend of the Christmas Stocking

*All the children are invited to join Pastor Bell
at the front of the sanctuary.*

Special Music

What Child Is This?

English Traditional Carol
Wendy Wickham, soloist

The Word Embraced

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Carol No. 210

Silent Night, Holy 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.

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!

*Benediction

Now may He who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and good will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Postlude

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

arr. Montaigne

We thank all of our musicians for their participation tonight.

Our Christmas Offering will go to the *PCA Ministerial Relief Fund*.

Please do not take your poinsettias home until after the 11:00 PM service.

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 28th. The worship service will be at 10:30 AM as usual. *RockHouse* will **not** meet that evening.

The 2015 offering envelopes are in the narthex. If you would like to begin using envelopes for your giving, please speak to Pastor Bell.