



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

**Bulletins for all three services are below –
PLEASE SCROLL DOWN**

3:00 p.m. Service

We Gather

Prelude

Carol Medley

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Rebecca Guzman

***Call to Worship**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Janet and Tim Morgan; Bryce and Alex Manton;
Stephanie, Taylor, Emerson, Tucker, and Charlie Morgan

One: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love, and God of light, thank you for shining your holy light into our darkness.

All: **God of light, help us to spread the good news of your coming into the world! Amen.**

***Carol 133**

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!

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Story

Rebecca Guzman

Today, everyone who wants to is invited to be part of the story! If you are an angel, listen for directions to follow Gabriel when the angels go to the shepherds.

If you are a shepherd or animal, watch our head shepherd. We will let you know when it's time to come up! If you get up to the front of the church and decide you'd actually rather go back and sit with your grown-ups, that's just fine. We assume the first Christmas was a little noisy and chaotic, and we're ok if this one is too. A baby crying just adds to the special effects!

Storytelling

Caroline Angerer, Austin Favreau,
Grayson Myers

Story Carols

Carol 146 ***Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*** FLORIDUM

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.*

Carol 145 ***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!*

Carol 114 ***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.*

Carol 113 ***Angels We Have Heard on High*** GLORIA

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Carol 119 ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*** MENDELSSOHN

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

Carol 136 ***Go, Tell It on the Mountain*** GO TELL IT

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

Carol 151 **We Three Kings of Orient Are** KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

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.

Carol 128 **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly** W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Wiggle Prayer Elizabeth Gentry

. . . (unison) 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.

Anthem **The Angels Were Singing** Greg Gilpin
Alleluia and Hosanna Choirs

*The angels were singing a jubilant strain.
The heavens were singing; earth caught the refrain.
The angels were singing, good news they did bring:
In Bethlehem's stable, a baby, a king!
How joyous their singing of peace and goodwill,
And Christmas is bringing that song to us still!
Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*

We Go Out to Serve

Service of Light

*Carol 122 **Silent Night, Holy Night!** STILLE NACHT

You are invited to stand and turn your candle on for the service of light.

*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.*

***Charge and Benediction** Rebecca Guzman

Postlude *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* arr. David Cherwien

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Ministry and Music

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Caroline Angerer, Austin Favreau, Elizabeth Gentry, Grayson Myers,
liturgists

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Nativity:

Maddie Ritchie, Mary

James Martin, Joseph

Savannah Brown, Gabriel

Oliver Bayer, Wise Person

Harrison Rose, Wise Person

Julia Greeson, Wise Person

Elizabeth Gentry, Star

Felix Jaynes, Head Shepherd

5:00 p.m. Service

We Gather

Prelude *Festive Toccata on "In Dulci Jubilo"* Mark Himmelman

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Introit DIX

*Light a candle bright and tall
For the Christ we greet this night.
Christ has come, our all in all.*

**With the angels, we delight:
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.**

***Call to Worship**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Geena, Mike, Harper Leigh, Jones and Rue Woodard

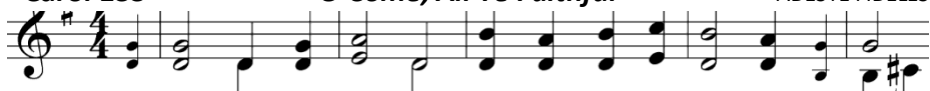
One: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love, and God of light, thank you for shining your holy light into our darkness.

All: **God of light, help us to spread the good news of your coming into the world! Amen.**

***Carol 133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,



Refrain



born the King of an - gels!
got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
glo - ry in the high - est!
now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!



Prayer of Adoration (unison)

Rebecca Guzman

O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Prince of Peace," and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch us—touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.

*Carol 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN



1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king,
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



We Hear and Respond to the Word

First Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Rebecca Guzman

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Anthem*Mary, Where Is Your Baby?*

Dan Edwards

Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

*Mary, where is your baby? Way down yonder in Bethlehem.**Shepherds in the fields watching over their sheep,**Some of them are dozing and the others asleep,**When suddenly they're wakened by a glorious sound:**A host of heavenly angels singing praise all around!**The shepherds were a-trembling and a-quaking in fear.**The angel said, "We've something that we want you to hear!"**Right over there in Bethlehem is born on this day**The long-awaited Son of God asleep in the hay!"**The shepherds headed down and-a what do you know?**They found the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes.**They saw his mother Mary and they saw Joseph, too.**They left the manger singing and-a shouting good news!***Second Reading**

Luke 2:8-20

Dr. Brown

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her

heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

News Source

Dr. Brown

***Carol 134**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heaven and na - ture sing,



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



***The Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

The Apostles' Creed

Rev. Lindsey Odom

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was

crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory *O Come to Set Us Free* Mary McDonald

Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Come, O come, our Savior, Messiah; come to set us free, hallelujah!

Come to set us free.

We await Your holy birth, Jesus, Light of the World;

King of kings and Lord of lords, come to set us free, hallelujah!

Come to set us free.

Prince of Peace, He is God, our Redeemer;

come to set us free, hallelujah!

Come to set us free.

Glory to the Son of God, Light and Life of the World;

King of kings and Lord of lords, come to set us free, hallelujah!

Come to set us free.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

O Come to set us free! Emmanuel!

As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at www.smpchome.org/give or texting SMPC to 73256.

***Doxology** *Advent Doxology* R. G. Huff

Praise to God, the One who made us.

Praise to Christ, the newborn Son.

Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One.

Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table Dr. Brown

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Odom

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise . . .**

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 Institution

Dr. Brown

Rev. Odom

The Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come forward (see diagram) and receive the elements: cup your hands to receive a cracker, then take a cup. Communion cups may be placed in the cup-holders in the pews or the racks in the balcony. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat. Gluten-free elements are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Brown

We Go Out to Serve

***Carol 122**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

(hold lit candles upright, tilt unlit candles to receive the flame)

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.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

***Postlude**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

arr. David Cherwien

8:00 p.m. Service

We Gather

Prelude

Prelude on "Christmas Day"

Holst, arr. Mansfield

Ann Carney, piano; Zach Bowyer, organ

Introit

DIX

*Light a candle bright and tall
For the Christ we greet this night.
Christ has come, our all in all.
With the angels, we delight:
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.*

***Call to Worship**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Steve, Karen and Evan Williams; Carolyn Elliott

One: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love, and God of light, thank you for shining your holy light into our darkness.

All: **God of light, help us to spread the good news of your coming into the world! Amen.**

***Carol 133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,



Refrain



born the King of an - gels!
got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
glo - ry in the high - est!
now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!



O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Prince of Peace," and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch us—touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.

*Carol 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
- 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
- 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

**We Hear and Respond to the Word**

First Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Dr. Bayer

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Anthem*When God Is a Child*

Tim Osiek

Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Hope is a star that shines in the night leading us on till the morning is bright. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong. And none shall be afraid.

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth giving a promise of safety and worth. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn telling the world that the Savior is born. Love is a flame that burns in our heart; Jesus has come and will never depart.

Second Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Dr. Brown

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

News Source

Dr. Brown

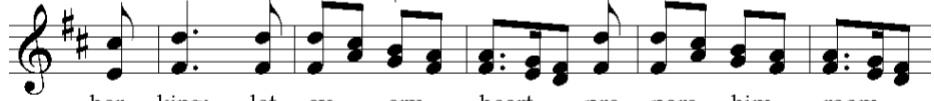
*Carol 134

Joy to the World

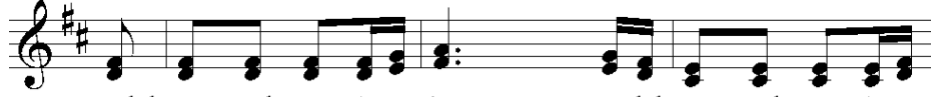
ANTIOCH



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



*The Affirmation of Faith (unison)

The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Bayer

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Carol 122**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

(hold lit candles upright, tilt unlit candles to receive the flame)

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:

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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.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

***Postlude**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

arr. David Cherwien

Congregational Notes

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! If you are joining us in person or online, are a first-time visitor, a long-term member, or anything in between, we are glad that you are worshiping with us and we want to stay connected with you. To receive our emails, sent on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, contact Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager, adrienne@smpchome.org. Also, find us on Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres) and Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian).

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, January 26 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor, whitney@smpchome.org or 980-265-2835.

Remember in Prayer

- All those involved in the continued hurricane recovery efforts.
- All those living with uncertainty in the Middle East.
- All those affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti, amid the chaos that has enveloped their country.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPCHome.org

Christmas Eve Offering

Our tradition is to give our Christmas offering to support our Missions/Outreach ministries. Today's offering will go to the purchase of food for our OFCB mission in Haiti and can be placed in one of the baskets in the narthex as you exit.

OFCB Ministries in Bayonnais, Haiti, provides hope in a land of extreme poverty. With inflation levels now at 60%, costs have risen astronomically and there is a dire need for food both at the school and in the community.

OFCB operates a Christian K-13 school (2,300 students), a church, and a medical clinic. Since its inception in 1993, SMPC has partnered with OFCB to support our mission in Bayonnais.

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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

8601 Bryant Farms Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704-544-0404

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

smpchome.org

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2024/2025

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! We hope you will consider joining one (or more!) of our many classes, small groups, service opportunities or ministries. There wasn't enough room to list all the ways to get involved! To stay updated, please subscribe to our weekly email, follow us on social media, or go to our website, smpchome.org. Contact: Adrienne Jaquith, adrienne@smpchome.org.

STUDY

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, January 3, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Chapel 206

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. They will begin a new book, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, in the new year. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

Conversations with Matt Brown, Every Wednesday resuming January 8, 9:30 a.m., McQueen Room and Zoom

Join us as we discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Contact for the Zoom ID#: Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org.

Men's Evening Study Group, Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m. Chapel 206

The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

Making Space Mom's Group, Thursday, January 16, 7:30 p.m., McQueen Room

Moms of all ages are invited to join us on the first and third Thursdays of every month for study, service and fellowship. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

Adult Study: 'Trust the Whisper,' Sundays beginning January 19, 9:00-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom

Join Melissa White and Rebecca Guzman for a four-week discussion on Kathy Izzard's book, *Trust the Whisper*. We'll examine how small moments and choices can lead to a meaningful life. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

All Church Reads and Event: 'Trust the Whisper: Discerning Ways to Love God and Love Neighbor,' Sunday, February 2, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Everyone is invited to read *Trust the Whisper* by local author Kathy Izzard and join us for a discussion and Q&A with the author. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

SERVE

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, January 4, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Sign up on smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.

Shelter Ministry, Thursday, January 9, 9:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Meets on the second Thursday of every month to fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

Bagged Lunches for Roof Above, Saturday, January 11, 9:30 a.m., In front of Palmer Building

Each month we collect and donate 100 bagged lunches to Roof Above. Contact: Julie Durham, julierdurham@gmail.com.

Desserts for Center of Hope, Sunday, January 12, Drop Off Dessert Before 10:10 a.m. Worship

Each month, we bring desserts for us to deliver Center of Hope guests. Homemade or store-bought! Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

Room in the Inn, January 12, February 16 and March 2, Sardis Presbyterian Church

Volunteers will help with dinner, overnight stays or breakfast and cleanup. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Breakfast for Center of Hope, Saturday, January 18

Each month, SMPC preps, cooks and serves breakfast for guests at the Center of Hope. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

SMALL GROUPS

Handiworkers Group, Tuesdays resuming January 7, 10:00 a.m., Palmer 104

All knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters (beginners to experts) are invited. Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjameson@gmail.com.

Men's Breakfast Group, Thursday, January 9, 9:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy

This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, January 14, 1:00-2:30 p.m., McQueen Room

Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Contact: Dr. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

Food for Thought Book Group, Thursday, January 16, 12:30 p.m., McQueen Room

All are welcome as we discuss the book *The Frozen River: A Novel* by Ariel Lawhon. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

International Dining Group, Thursday, January 16, Time and Location TBD

This group explores local restaurants on the third Thursday of every month. Please join us! Contact: Alice Tyler, rtr1317@aol.com.

Supper Circles

Supper circles meet monthly or every other month and are hosted at a restaurant or a home. Contact: Adrienne Jaquith, adrienne@smpchome.org.

CHILDREN

BAM! (Bible and Music), Sunday, January 12, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

BAM! is our Sunday evening program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

SMPC Preschool

Registration opens January 21 for church members. New preschool families must schedule a tour before registering. Tours will take place January 9-13. Please contact Tammy Winchip, tammy@smpchome.org, to schedule.

YOUTH (MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL)

Big Youth Group (BYG), Sunday, January 5, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Bible study, small group time, good food, fun games and amazing company. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Coffee and Conversation, Sunday, January 12, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Amelie's,

7715 Pineville-Matthews Rd We hope you can join us for a fun youth coffee! The church will cover the cost of a coffee or drink for each youth. Please bring additional money if you'd like a pastry or lunch. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

MUSIC

Chancel Choir, Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Do you enjoy leading worship through song? Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

2025 OPERATING FUND CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank you to the 271 families who have committed a total of \$1.17 million in pledges to the *Live into Hope* 2025 Operating Fund campaign! This campaign funds all of our ministries and operations for 2025. To date, 20 new families have made pledges, and repeat pledging families increased their pledges by an average of 7.3%. Thank you! There is still time to pledge via the QR code. Thank you to our Stewardship Committee and SMPC staff for their hard work on this campaign.



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