

Order of Divine Worship
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2005

Gathering around God's Word

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP Fred Coates
PRELUDE: (5:00 p.m.) "Christmas Duet" arr. Ethel Smith
(Christy Floyd, organ; Nancy Smith, piano)
(7:30 p.m.) "Sleepers Awake" J.S. Bach
(Christy Floyd, organ; Tyler Hutto, horn)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 9:6)

For to 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.**

*CAROL: "The First Noel" No. 229

**The first Noel the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay tending their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

(Refrain) Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

**They look-ed up and saw a star Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)**

**Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of naught, And with His blood mankind hath bought.
(Refrain)**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We
have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain) Tune: GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Proclaiming God's Word

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(5:00 p.m.) Stacey, Neil, David, Rachel and John Faulkenberry
(7:30 p.m.) Don, Jerilyn, Meredith, Morgan, Donovan Fair

Shine on us, O God of justice; Guide our path through gloom of night;

Bear within us Wisdom's glory; Come to us, O Christ the Light.

Glory be to God and peace on earth, Christ is born! Alleluia!

Hearing and Responding to God's Word

ANTHEM: (5:00 p.m.) Cherub Choir, accompanied by Nancy Smith

"Twinkle, Twinkle Special Star"

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

ANTHEM (7:30 p.m). "The Coventry Carol" Traditional
(Mark Auten, guitar; Mary Ellen Auten, flute)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY Fred Coates

*CAROL: "Away in a Manger" No. 205

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky And stay by my cradle til morning is
nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee
there.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:1-20 (pew Bible, page 55)

MEDITATION: "I'll Be Home for Christmas" Russell Mase

*CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 180

**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.**

**O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

OFFERTORY: (5:00 p.m.) "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head" arr. John Jacob Niles
(Jen McNeely, Jill Herring, Chris Ahearn)

(7:30 p.m.) "A Carol Fantasy" arr. Harold Walters
(Tyler Hutto and Graham Sledge, horn)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing God's Word into the World

SERVICE OF LIGHTS

Scripture Readings

Lighting of Candles

To avoid dripping hot wax, please tip only unlighted candles.

CAROL: "Silent Night, Holy Night"No. 186

**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!**

PRAYER

*Please extinguish candles after the prayer—careful not to blow tallow.
Place candles in the boxes by the doors as you leave.*

PROCLAMATION OF JOY..... Russell Mase

*CAROL: "Joy to the World"No. 179

**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 earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**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

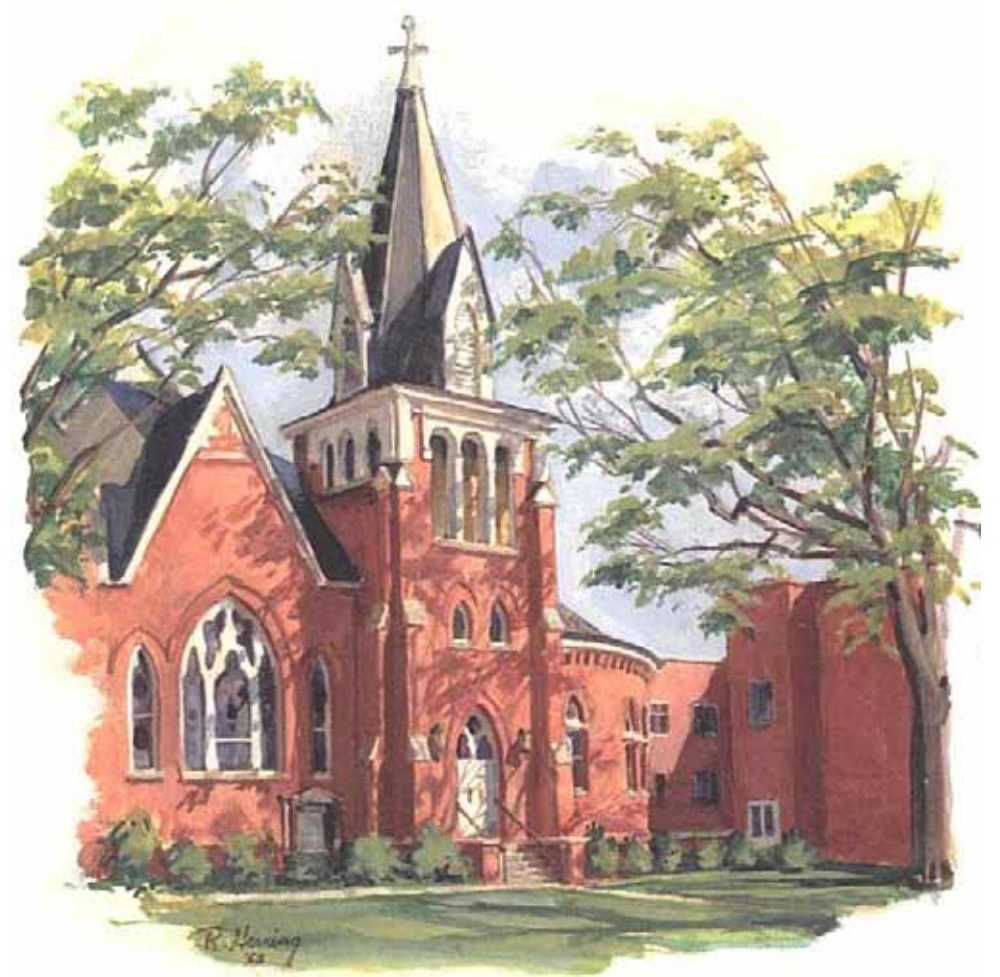
POSTLUDE: "Once in Royal David's City"arr. James Pethel



Visitors: Welcome to the annual Christmas Eve service at First Presbyterian Church. We pray that our worship will be a meaningful part of your holiday celebration. May you have a joyous and blessed Christmastide!

Christmas Joy Offering: One half of this special offering will be used to assist retired or present church workers who face special needs. The other half will help support the eight racial ethnic schools and colleges in covenant with the General Assembly of our denomination.

The Mooresville Christian Mission food pantry is in need. You are invited to donate items at their location at 100 Beam Drive (off of Park Avenue). They particularly need canned meats, canned stews, peanut butter, spaghetti sauces (with meat), "chunky" soups and other high nourishment foods.



First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue

Mooresville, North Carolina

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him...

Habakkuk 2:20