

Order of Divine Worship  
Christmas Day  
December 25, 2005

*Gathering around God's Word*

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP ..... Fred Coates  
PRELUDE: "Noël Nouvelet" ..... arr. Hal Hopson  
(Christy Floyd)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, you who labor in faith without tasting the fruit of your labor,  
Look! Your deliverance dawns upon you!

**"God-with-us" is born! The baby in the manger is our hope.**

Come, you who tremble in the midst of terror.  
Rest from your anxiety! Sigh with relief!

**"God-with-us" is born! The baby in the manger is our peace.**

Come, you who are worn out by the busy-ness of this season.  
Your weariness passes away.

**"God-with-us" is born! The baby in the manger is our joy.**

Come, you who live in loneliness with no one being near.  
You need not be lonely anymore.

**"God-with-us" is born! The baby in the manger is our love.**

The Word has become flesh and dwells among us,  
and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**"God with us" is born! The baby in the manger is our light.**

**Alleluia! Christ is here!**

\*CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High" .....No. 188

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We celebrate the coming of Christ, our Savior and the Light of the world; we have prayed for that light to enter our lives and our world. Yet we confess that there have been times when we have obscured that light for others through insensitivity and prejudice, through the use of careless and hurtful words or selfish and destructive actions. Come Lord Jesus, be light for our darkness and empower us with Your Spirit to be faithful bearers of Your light into all the shadowy and clouded areas of people's lives. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God sent Jesus into the world not to judge us, but to save us. The great good news is this: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

*Proclaiming God's Word*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

\*CAROL: "What Child Is This?" .....No. 184  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 1:1-14 (pew Bible, page 87)  
SERMON: "Did You Read the Manual?" ..... Fred Coates

*Responding to God's Word*

\*CAROL: "O Holy Night" (v. 1, 3).....No. 187

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI: "Glory Be to the Father" .....No. 734

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

**The celebration of Your birth resembles You, Lord, because it brings joy to all humanity. Old people and infants alike enjoy Your day. Your day is celebrated from generation to generation. Kings and emperors may pass away, and the festivals to commemorate them soon lapse. But Your festival will be remembered until the end of time. Your day is a means and a pledge of peace. At Your birth heaven and earth were reconciled, since You came from heaven to earth on that day. You forgave our sins and wiped away our guilt. You gave us so many gifts on the day of your birth: a treasure chest of spiritual medicines for the sick; spiritual light for the blind; the cup of salvation for the thirsty; the bread of life for the hungry. In the winter when trees are bare, You give us the most succulent spiritual fruit. In the frost when the earth is barren, You bring new hope to our souls. In December when seeds are hidden in the soil, the staff of life springs forth from the virgin womb.**  
*—Nativity Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian (AD 306-373)*

(a time for silent prayers of intercession)

**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 for ever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM: "Angels' Carol" .....John Rutter  
(Chancel Choir)

\*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow" .....No. 34

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION ..... Lindsey Miller

*Bearing God's Word into the World*

\*CAROL: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" .....No. 191

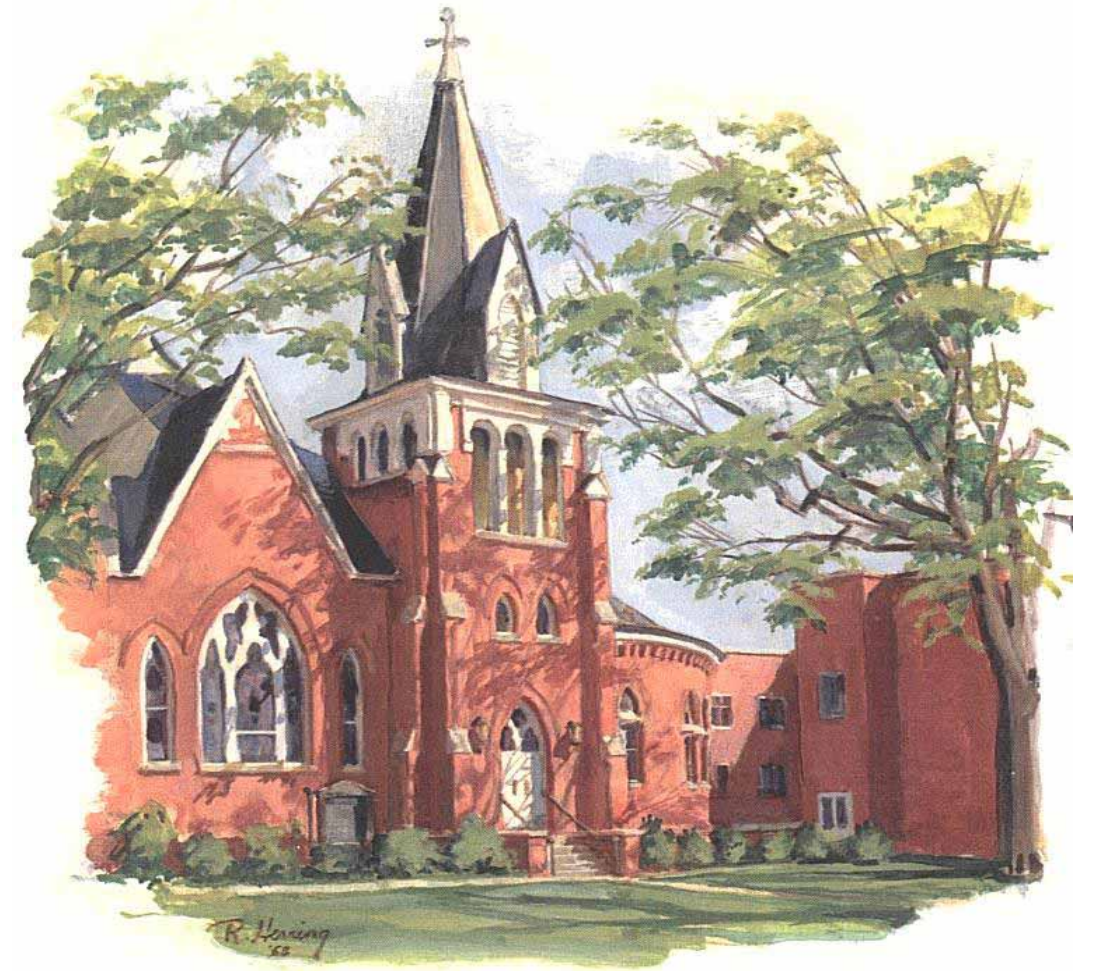
\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "French Carol Miniature" ..... arr. Hal Hopson  
*Recordings of the service are available at the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.*

**Visitors:** Welcome to First Presbyterian on this Christmas Day. May the blessings of this holy season fill you with peace, hope, joy and faith. If you need a church home, we invite you to unite with our congregation. Please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad. ...

### *Calendar and Announcements*

- Monday: - Church Office closed  
Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Pie in the Sky and outing to see  
*The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*  
Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner  
Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home Harding & Peggy Rogers  
Sunday: 9:45 a.m. - Church School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship



## 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