



The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24, 2020



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC



Welcome to St. John's!

*Please note that tonight's service is printed entirely in this worship booklet.
Congregation responses are in bold*

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Christmas Eve worship at St. John's. Today we join with millions of Christians around the world in celebrating the birth of Jesus. Surrounded by the beauty of Christmas, our worship is also a fitting response to a year filled with worry, tragedy, and enormous change. In the midst of the many challenges, we journey to the manger and lift high a light that promises to shatter the darkness.

Although Covid prevents us from personally greeting you before or after worship, today we pray that your Christmas celebration and new year will be filled with joy, peace, and new beginnings. What a blessing to worship together in this beautiful place. Merry Christmas!

Pastors Laura and Rhodes
On behalf of the staff and leadership of St. John's

***We invite you to join together in song at your discretion, but please
remember to keep your masks on throughout worship so that
everyone can remain safe and comfortable.***



Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ — *During the proclamation, the light of Christ is placed in the center of our worshipping congregation.*

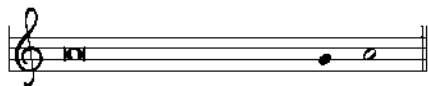
Entrance Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful
See Page 9

ADESTE FIDELES

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie. *The kyrie is a centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace as we gather for worship.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



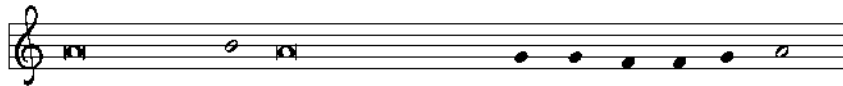
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
 Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
 See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
 hear how their song of joy arises:
 Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
 Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated



Word

God speaks to us in reading, preaching and song.

First Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*Many generations before the death of Jesus,
 Isaiah offers this prophecy:*

²The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
 on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Response

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14 *Paul reminds his friend Titus as to why Jesus came to earth*

Paul writes:

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Processional

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Please stand as God's Word is brought into the midst of God's people.

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Gospel Luke 2:1-20

The birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was

engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Response

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

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 we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Rhodes Woolly

Please stand

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High
See Page 10

GLORIA

Apostle's Creed

Gathered as God's people across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession. *Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*



"Prince of Peace" by Akiane Kramarik, age 8



Sending

God blesses us and sends us to advance his kingdom.

Candle Lighting

The ushers light the candle of the person near the aisle. Please pass the light by holding your burning candle upright for the person next to you. We sing Silent Night, raising our candles at the third stanza to symbolize our acceptance of Jesus' call to be a light to the world.

Carol

Silent 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! 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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Benediction

Sending Carol

Joy to the World
See Page 11

ANTIOCH

Postlude

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels;
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav' n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Participants in the 11 am service

SONG LEADERS: Rosemary C. Kinard, Cindy Fink, Corinne Mauldin, Randy Overcash

PRELUDE SOLOISTS: Corinne Mauldin, Randy Overcash; *A Christmas Carol* Arr. By David Moore, Rosemary C. Kinard, Flute

SOLOIST: Emily Avalos; *Noel* by Lauren Daigle; Bradley Chestnut, Accompanist

PROCLAMATION READERS: Raegan and Riley Lowder

READER: Linda Bryant

ACOLTYES/TORCH BEARERS: Meredith Williams, Cora Wymbbs

CRUCIFER: Millie Wymbbs

VIDEO: Mike Agee

STREAMING: Taylor Hutchins

Participants in the 2 pm service

SONG LEADERS: Carol Everhart, David and Bonnie Hord, Kim Lentz, Corinne Mauldin, Randy Overcash, Linda Voelker

PRELUDE SOLOISTS: Corinne Mauldin, Randy Overcash; Bradley Chestnut, Guitar

SOLOIST: Bradley Chestnut; *Mary, Did You Know?* By Mark Lowry

PROCLAMATION READERS: Archie and Maggie Dees

READER: Lilly Dangerfield

ACOLTYES/TORCH BEARERS: Wade Robins, Aiden Moss

CRUCIFER: Hank Robins

VIDEO: Mike Agee

STREAMING: Taylor Hutchins

Participants in the 5 pm service

SONG LEADERS: Rosemary C. Kinard, Corinne Mauldin, Randy Overcash, Alex Yost, Derek Young, Dave Roof

PRELUDE: Brass Selections by *The Festival Brass*

PRELUDE SOLOIST: Anne Newkirk; *He Has Come For Us*, by Meredith Andrews; Bradley Chestnut, Accompanist

SOLOIST: Alex Yost; *O Holy Night*, by Adolphe Adam

THE FESTIVAL BRASS: Luke Boudreault, Mary Boudreault, Charlie Fisher, Steve Sutton and Aleksandr Witt

PERCUSSION: Davis Brown

PROCLAMATION READERS: Tate Houpe, Katherine Sullivan

READER: Noah and Gabriel Young

ACOLTYES/TORCH BEARERS: Connor Towns, Makara Trick

CRUCIFER: Christopher Kafitz

VIDEO: Mike Agee

STREAMING: Taylor Hutchins

Participants in the 8 pm service

SONG LEADERS: Rosemary C. Kinard, Carol Hair, Celia Jarrett, Dennis and Karen Rogers, Randy Overcash, Corinne Mauldin, Carter Woolly, Diane Goodnight, Dave Roof

PRELUDE: Brass Selections by *The Festival Brass*

PRELUDE SOLOISTS: Alex Yost, *Mary, Did You Know?* By Mark Lowry; Grace Faller; *Light of the World* by Lauren Daigle; Bradley Chestnut; Accompanist

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Arr. By M. McDonald and Steven S. Nelson; Kevin Agner, Cello; Rosemary C. Kinard, Accompanist

SERVICE SOLOIST: Alex Yost; *O Holy Night*, by Adolphe Adam

THE FESTIVAL BRASS: Luke Boudreault, Mary Boudreault, Charlie Fisher, Steve Sutton and Aleksandr Witt

PERCUSSION: Davis Brown

PROCLAMATION READERS: Marian Hough, Anna Grace Woolly

READER: Mary Willis Page

ACOLTYES/TORCH BEARERS: Mallory Rhyne, Bella German

CRUCIFER: Noah Hines

VIDEO: Mike Agee

STREAMING: Taylor Hutchins

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Donna Weinhold and family—John, Jody and Marianna. In memory of the Weinhold family, Don and Merrea, Don Jr., Pat, Melena, Brandt, Claudia, and Dr. John Painter.

If you purchased a poinsettia, you may take it home following the 8 pm service.

Poinsettias Given in Honor of

Bill Safrit by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees

Carolyn Beck by Kathryn Beck

Men's Chorus by Charles Dabbs

My Grandmommy, Nancy Shirley by Hank Michalec

Our Dads, Steve Shirley and Charles Reed by Sarah and Russell Michalec

Pastor Laura Henrik by Charles Dabbs

Pastor Rhodes Woolly by Charles Dabbs

Rob Durocher by Charles Dabbs

Rosemary Kinard by Charles Dabbs

Sandy and Stan Jordan by Sarah, Russell and Hank Michalec

Susan and Glenn Ketner by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees

Taylor Hutchins by Charles Dabbs

Taylor Hutchins by David and Jeannie Hutchins

Taylor Hutchins by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees
The Henrik Family by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees

Poinsettias Given in Memory of

Aleine and Ragland Kirchin by Carol, Johnny, Jeff, Hilary, Harper and Caroline Miller
Bill Marcum by Gary and Betty Pinkston
Brant Short by Kathryn Beck
Chris Pinkston by Gary and Betty Pinkston
Chris Whitton by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees
Connie and Corinna Gardner by Sandra & Rob Sullivan, Robert & Katherine
Connie and Corinna Gardner by Steve Gardner, Chris, Brad, and Jack
Darlene and Johnny Peoples by Penny, Chris & Aiden Moss
Della and Newland Parker by Peggy and Wade Rouzer
Dick Nelson by Pat Nelson
Dot and John Miller by Their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren
Elma Linker Dabbs by Charles Dabbs
Mary Ann and Charlie Hoover, by Jake, Carole, Caroline, Carsyn and Harrison Parrott
Mr. and Mrs. Emmette G. Thompson, Jr. by Judy T. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wallace by Raymond and Kay Coltrain
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Safrit by Perry and Carolyn Hood
Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Coltrain by Raymond and Kay Coltrain
Rand and Yvonne Yost by Jake, Carole, Caroline, Carsyn & Harrison Parrott
Steve and Betty Parrott by Jake, Carole, Caroline, Carsyn & Harrison Parrott

Wreaths Given in Honor of

Margaret and George Kluttz by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees
The Woolly Family by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees

Wreaths Given in Memory of

Betty Munday and Doug Cesario by Brenda Munday
Greyhound Grace by Kathryn Beck
Jamie Munday Simmons and Donna Crook by Brenda Munday
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hood by Perry and Carolyn Hood
Mrs. Anzonetta Edwards by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees
Mr. and Mrs. Earle C. Kluttz by Meg, Jay, Archie and Maggie Dees

Candles Given in Memory of

Aleine and Ragland Kirchin by Carol, Johnny, Jeff, Hilary, Harper and Caroline Miller

Barbara Benton by Kay Wilson

Dot and John Miller by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren

Logan Grubb by Penny, Chris & Aiden Moss

Norde Wilson by Kay Wilson

Tippie Miller by Kay Wilson

Vickie Lopez by Kathryn Beck

***St. John's gratefully acknowledges all other donations
for our holiday decorations:***

Decorations Given in Honor of

All who have been a part of bringing worship into our homes by Gary and Angela Graham

Carolyn Beck by Kathryn Beck

Decorating Committee by Parker and Ann Hatchett

Pastor Laura Henrik by Parker and Ann Hatchett

Pastor Rhodes Woolly by Parker and Ann Hatchett

Peggy Smith by Harold and Peggy Mowery

The Staff of St. John's (Thanks for keeping us connected these past months!!) by Kay Wilson

Decorations Given in Memory of

Clifford and Lillian Peeler, Mary and Allan Rouzer by Peggy and Wade Rouzer

Frank Goodnight by Diane Goodnight

Raymond and Shirley Ritchie by Harold and Peggy Mowery

Other Acknowledgements:

The Peeler Hall nativity scene is given in memory of Dot Miller.

The nativity scene at the pulpit was given by Fran Hoke.

The brass nativity scene in the balcony was given by Tippie Miller.

The beaded Nativity scene at the Baptismal font was made and given by Eleanor Sifford.

***Thank you to the Decorating Team for their dedication to decorating our
worship spaces this Christmas season. Soli Deo Gloria.***



*“Kissing the Face of God”
by Morgan Weistling*

St. John’s Lutheran Church

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Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....The Rev. Dr. Rhodes Woolly
Pastor for Youth and Discipleship.....The Rev. Laura Henrik
Visitation.....Wade Rouzer

Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon
Associate Parish MusicianRosemary Kinard
9:27 Worship Leader.....Bradley Chestnut
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins
Director of Music Emeritus.....Karl Kinard, deacon

Program Ministry

Youth.....The. Rev. Laura Henrik
Children.....Stacey Shafer
AdultsDanny Hines
Senior AdultsDiane Poole
St. John’s Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds)Teresa Stoner
Child Development Center (infant through 4 and after school)Joanna Smith

Administrative Team

Business ManagerRuth Ann Diehl
Office Manager.....Deborah Cross
Communications Specialist/Office AssistantAngel Owens
Accounting.....Mark Bias
Facilities Manager.....Jon Koppe
Maintenance.....David Ellenburg