



**INDEPENDENT**  
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.



# THE CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

*The Twenty-Fourth Day of December, Two Thousand and Twenty  
Five-Thirty and Eight O'clock in the Evening*

## THE PRELUDE

“Angels We Have Heard on High” arr. Mitchell-Wallace/Head  
*Junius Johnson, Horn*  
*Molly Pennington, Harpsichord (8:00 p.m.)*  
*Jennifer Velázquez, Organist*

## THE CHORAL INTROIT

“Glory to God” from *Messiah* Handel

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 9:6-7

*The Minister:* For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Amen!  
Let us worship God!

*The Reverend Robert O. Browning, Associate Pastor (5:30 p.m.)*

*The Reverend Jeremy Jones, Assistant Pastor (8:00 p.m.)*

# THE HYMN OF PRAISE

## “Angels We Have Heard on High”

No. 214

Traditional French carol

Gloria

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing  
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous  
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the

o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re - ply  
strains pro - long? Say what may the tid - ings be,  
an - gels sing; come, a - dore on bend - ed knee

ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

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

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

## THE INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10; Isaiah 63:7-9; Isaiah 7:14

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. <sup>9</sup>In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

## THE ANTHEM

"Candle Carol"

K. Lee Scott

*James A. Brown, Jr., Director*

Christmas candle, softly glowing, Warmth and light diffusing 'round;  
Symbol of our Saviour's presence, Love from heav'n to earth come down.  
Shedding glory, matchless story of Christ Jesus' humble birth;  
He from starry realms of heaven Deigned to visit us on earth.

In this blessed, glorious season, Time of beauty, joy and peace;  
Time of mercy, time of sharing, In our hearts thy light increase,  
Kindle loving, kindle caring; Pierce our gloomy, selfish night.  
Lift our eyes on high to see thee, Jesus Christ, true Light of light.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

## THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-16

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

## THE SERMON

"Songs of Advent: Angels' Song"

*Dr. Sean Michael Lucas*

*Senior Pastor*

# THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

“What Child Is This”

No. 213

Traditional English carol

Greensleeves

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is  
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are  
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the  
 own him; the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear, shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the

Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:  
 pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
 song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.  
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.



## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. — *1 Corinthians 11:26*

# THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Joy to the World! The Lord is Come”

No. 195

Isaac Watts, 1719

Antioch

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

King; let ev-ery heart pre-pare him  
play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; he comes to make his bless-ings  
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  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n 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 BENEDICTION

### THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

Stille Nacht

*The Choir:*

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.

*The Congregation:*

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!

### THE POSTLUDE

“Toccata sur ‘Il est né, le divin Enfant’”  
(*He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child*)

Bédard

*To our church family and all of our guests this evening,  
the ministers, officers, and staff of the church wish you  
a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*



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