



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 15, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming
NWPC Youth Handbells

Arr. Sondra Tucker

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

Call to Worship

The Cockrell Family

One: Children of God, we come, tired of waiting, burdened by the weight of watching. We surrender to God's holy "not yet," embracing the stillness. We come, and God-with-us is present in our longing.

One: As we gather today, we remember the promised gifts of the Messiah. In the lighting of three candles, we set our gaze upon beacons that sustain us through sleepless nights and restless days. We bear this light together.

One: We call this candle Hope . . . We call this candle Peace . . .
We call this candle Joy.

Sung Response (#91)

Come, Come Emmanuel

Come, come Emmanuel. Come Emmanuel

One: Giver of Life, we inhabit a world that often seeks to steal our joy. rejoicing is a courageous embodiment, a tender defiance. Reveling in the goodness of God stands against the current: a quiet rebellion against forces that thrive on fear. To find beauty amid complexity is a bold act, and gratitude is a balm that brings healing to our souls.

All: **You, O God, are our hope, our peace, and our joy, the quiet strength in our deepest longing. Amen.**

****Opening Hymn: The Glory of Christmas (Cong. & Choir)***

Arr. Lloyd Larson

Angels We Have Heard on High

All: Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains
Glor----- ria in excelsis Deo! Glor----- ria in excelsis Deo!

Choir: Glor----- ria in excelsis Deo! Hosanna in excelsis.

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Women: On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring .

Men: On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring .

All: **News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.
All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night
All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night
Glory to God in highest heaven, Now and ever more, Amen.**

Angels From the Realms of Glory

All: Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn
King!

Prepare the Way of the Lord

(All are invited to sing along with the choir throughout, but particularly when marked, **Cong.**)

Prepare the Way of the Lord (Choir)

Arr. Lloyd Larson

Choir: A voice cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"
The prophet cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"
Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low

Every crooked path shall be made straight and the rough places plain
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

A voice cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"
The prophet cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"
So comfort, comfort my people, say the Lord God who reigns on high
To Jerusalem say, "Your night is gone, for the Lord has heard your cry.
Prepare the way of the Lord.

A voice cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"
The prophet cries out, "Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord!"
Prepare the way of the Lord!

Breath of Heaven (Choir)

Words & Music by Chris Eaton & Amy Grant

Choir: Lo the angel called me "chosen one" to give birth to God's only Son.
and I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, You have come, and chosen
me now to carry Your Son.
I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now.
Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of
Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness
for you are holy, Breath of Heaven.

Do you wonder as You watch my face, if another should have had my
place?
But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan, Help me be strong, help me
be, help me.

Breath of Heaven hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of
Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness,
Breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness,
Breath of Heaven.

Canticle of the Turning (Choir Women)

Arr. Hal Hopson

Choir: My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones
who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did
not spurn.
So from east to west shall my name be blest, could the world be about
to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day your bring. Let the fires of your justice
burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to
turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the
age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for
you yearn.
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about
to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day your bring. Let the fires of your justice
burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to
turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on
stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
That hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to
turn.
My heart shall sing of the day your bring. Let the fires of your justice
burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to
turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast;
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard in the promise which holds us bound.
Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
My heart shall sing of the day your bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Choir & Cong.)

Phillips Brooks/Lewis Redner
Arr. Joseph Martin

**All: 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.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
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 Immanuel!**

Choir: Our Lord Immanuel!

The Hands that Cradled Mary's Child (Choir)

Thomas Troeger & Richard Jeffrey

**Choir: The hands that cradled Mary's child were hard from working wood,
from boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they
withstood
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
but cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.**

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,
and gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,
the angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's
height,
and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon a throne,
but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone.
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.

The tools which Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
and use with anger fear and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,
but charged with faith may we be bold to follow in His way.

Noel Festival (Choir)

Arr. Lloyd Larson

Choir: Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel.
Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
Come and journey forth to Behl'hem, find the Lambkin blest?

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel.
Sing we now of Christmas, Sing we now Noel!

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel, Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel,
Sing we all Noel! Sing we all Noel! Sing we all Noel! Sing we all Noel!
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel, Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

In the stall they found Him, Joseph and Mary mild,
seated round the manger, watching the holy Child
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas sing we now Noel!

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel, sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel
Sing Noel, sing Noel, sing we al Noel!

O Holy Night (Choir; Soloist: Sarah Privette)

Adolphe Adam
Arr. Lloyd Larson

Choir: O holy night, the stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O holy night when Christ was born!
O night divine! O night, O night divine.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O holy night when Christ was born!
O night divine! O night, O night divine.

****Closing Hymn: A Christmas Trilogy***

Arr. Joseph Martin

Joy to the World

All: 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!

The First Noel

All: The First Noel the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep.
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

All: Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man, no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Arr. Gordon Young

***Please rise, in body or spirit.**

Memorial Poinsettias
Poinsettias in the sanctuary are given in loving memory of:

Brenda Hall Cashion by Lena Lovette
Margaret R. Lovette by Lena Lovette
Claude and Frances Hall, Ona and Ken Lankford,
Brenda Hall-Cashion, Jackie Hall, Karen and
Steve Parsons by Linda and Gerald Lankford
Wendell Edgerton and Becky Hubbard by Margery Edgerton
Jack Steele by Kathryn Steele
Rev. Bill Pruitt and Mary Felts Pruitt by Polly Pruitt

John White Hubbard Jr., John and Becky Hubbard
Ted and Ann Czerkawski by The Czerkawski Family
The Wyatts, The Pipers and Lisa by John and Jenny Wyatt
Bob and Stephen Powell by Betty Powell
Dr. Tom Bowman and his parents by Karolen Bowman
Nancy and John Robert Church by Karolen Bowman
John (Jack) Horan and Tom Horan by Amanda, John, Camille and Antionette Horan

Ann and Gene McNeill, Helen and Billy Tomlinson by Marla and Rick McNeill
Sam Johnson, Harry Johnson, Dollie Pennell, and Ann Beane by Tamara Johnson
Bill and Sara Elizabeth Watts by William and Karen Watts
Jim and Jane Nourse by William and Karen Watts
Carolina Finley by Harry and Jean Page
Skip Parker by Chris and Mike Atwood
Jackie Hall, Becky Hubbard, & Jack Steele by Betty Thompson

Our parents, Grant and Jessie Rhodes by Barbara and Ed Gregory
Richard and Brattie Gregory by Barbara and Ed Gregory
Perry S and Bobbie Snipes by Perry and Nancy Snipes
Ora Bost Keener by Gaither Keener
Mary B. Keener by Gaither Keener
Dr. Philip M. Keener by Gaither Keener
Johnny Huffman by Chris Huffman
Thomas and Cynthia Eaton by Crystal Keener

Poinsettias in the sanctuary are given in loving memory of (cont.):

Claude and Frances Hall by Ted Hall
Brenda Hall Cashion by Ted Hall
Jackie Hall by Ted Hall
Karen Hall Parsons and Steve Parsons by Paige Smith
Jackie Hall by Paige Smith
Patsy Marie Mathis by Beckie Mathis
Debbie Mathis Summers by Beckie Mathis
Dr. Bob C. Thompson by The Thompson Family

Poinsettias in the sanctuary are given in honor of:

Betty Thompson by Karolen Bowman
*Our Children; Bern and Amanda Gregory, Braelyn, Xander
and Hinsley; Meredith Gregory and Grant Bridgwood* by Barbara and Ed Gregory
Betty Thompson by Barbara and Ed Gregory
Barbara England by Barbara and Ed Gregory
Our Children, Our grandchildren, and Our great granddaughter by Harry and Jean Page
My NWPC & Chapel Family by Betty Thompson

Betty Thompson by Lena Lovette
Mike and Vickie Norman by Lena Lovette
Carl and Peggy Swofford by Perry and Nancy Snipes
Our granddaughter Cora Lee Roberts by Perry and Nancy Snipes
Pastor R.C. Griffin and Pastor Amanda Horan and their families by Karolen Bowman
Our Children and Grandchildren by Jan and Steve Jackson

Debo Cornett by Marty Franklin
Gretchen Griffin by Marty Franklin
R.C. Griffin by The Franklin Family
Amanda Horan by The Franklin Family
Betty Thompson by The Franklin Family

Poinsettias in the sanctuary were donated by:

Randy Gambill and Sharilyn Owens

Come, Come Emmanuel

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Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em -

man - u - el. man - u - el.

This Advent refrain centers on the name of Jesus meaning "God with us" (Matthew 1:23, quoting Isaiah 7:14). Intended for repeated congregational singing, it can be expanded by the addition of stanzas sung by a soloist or choir, or it can serve effectively as a prayer response.

Cast of Characters

Inn Keeper	Al Cole
Zechariah	Bob Vickery
Mary	Rebekah Franklin
Elizabeth	Sharilyn Owens
Joseph	Blaine Johnston
Shepherds	
Rohi	Jude Griffin
Eid	Asher Griffin

A Special Thanks

A special thanks to Debo Cornett, NWPC Music Director, and to Marty Franklin, NWPC Musician, for their hard work and dedication, to the NWPC Chancel Choir for their commitment to ushering us into a spirit of worship each week, to the cast of characters who brought the Christmas story alive today, and for you, the NWPC family, who continues to faithfully live out our call to be a welcoming, growing, serving, and loving people here in Wilkes County.

