



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 22, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Adult Handbell Choir

Arr. Kathy Moglebust

Words of Welcome

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

NWPC Confirmands

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 four 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... We call this candle Love...

Sung Response (#91)

Come, Come Emmanuel

Come, come Emmanuel. Come Emmanuel.

One: Beloved Sustainer, in a world where care is mocked by the powerful, we stand as those who know the life-giving force of your love — for you, for our neighbors, for ourselves. You call us to be fierce in love, bold in tenderness.

All: **You, O God, enable us to be protectors of compassion, guardians of mercy in a world in need. Amen.**

***Hymn (#92)**

While We Are Waiting, Come

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. R.C. Griffin

***Prayer of Confession**

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. (Silence)

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, God is for us and not against us.
For that very reason, God sent the Son
into the world—
not to condemn the world, but that the
world might be saved through him.

All: **Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven!**



***Sharing a Sign of Christ's Peace**

***Congregational Response (#113)**

*Angels We Have Heard on High, Refrain
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Many: Thanks be to God.)***Anthem***What Child Shall Come?*
Ellen Lipscomb & Karen Worley

Arr. Patrick Liebergen

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.**"

*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Many: Thanks be to God.)***Sermon**The Promise of *Justice*

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH***Affirmation of Faith**Adapted from *the Confession of Belhar*

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Hymn (#108)Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Silent Night
Cadence Weddington

Arr. Dennis Alexander

*Congregational Response (#607, alt. tune #147)

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

*Responsive Prayer of Dedication

One: You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair into communion with each other, with you, and with your good news.

All: **We thank you for all that draws us close together, astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude. Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day and as honor to your presence in our world; for the sake of those who stand in need and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Hymn (#100)

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

*Charge, Benediction & Choral Benediction

*Postlude

Sing We Now of Christmas

Gordon Yong



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