



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Sumter

December 24, 2022



OPENING VOLUNTARY

While By My Sheep

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/The First Noel

Break Forth, O Beauteous Morning Light

Arr. by Robert Powell

Arr. by Vaclav Nelhybel

Arr. by S. Drummond Wolff

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

Jack Osteen

INTROIT

In Dulce Jubilo

Dallas Blair

Evan Thompson, Trumpet

* LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Cooper & Meg Hill, Cooper & Brogdon

Leader: Advent, the season of waiting, is almost over. It is Christmas Eve, which means God is here, and you are loved now and for all eternity.

People: **May that truth change us all. May it inspire us and renew us in faith as the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem comes near.**

Leader: For tonight we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, and also the Christ candle to remind us that God's love came down in a baby born of Mary. The star shines; angels sing; shepherds and wisemen journey to the ancient city of David; Mary and Joseph adore the newborn child; and Jesus is born!

People: **Sing with joy, for the time of promise has come. Glory to God in the highest!**

Choir, then congregation:

Christ, Be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.

* HYMN OF PRAISE 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we are the people who have walked in darkness and have lived in the land of regret and sorrow. We are the ones who need hope and peace and joy and love. We thank you this evening, O God, that you have come to us. You came so small, so meek and mild, to a world of darkness. And you shine as our light and as our hope, giving us a purpose beyond ourselves for the living of our days. Come, Holy Spirit, in this baby Jesus and guide us toward generosity, grace, and compassion. May we welcome your light and bear it into the world. Hear us as we pray to you on this holy night.

(Silence for Personal Confession)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

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 Emmanuel!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Love comes down at Christmas. In a baby born in Bethlehem, God has chosen to enter our world to reveal God's heart to us, to forgive our foolish mistakes, and to set us free to love others.

People: **Thanks be to God for the mercy of God in Jesus Christ.**

* GLORIA 113

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

GLORIA

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Bob Brearley

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing: the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

SCRIPTURE READING	Isaiah 9:2-7 (Pew Bible, pg. 638, Old Testament)	Jack Osteen
SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 2:1-20 (Pew Bible, pg. 58, New Testament)	Rev. Bob Brearley
MEDITATION	<i>The Holy Moment</i>	Rev. Bob Brearley

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Communion this evening will be served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle, receive the bread and the cup, partake at one of the stations and return to your seat by the side aisle. If you would rather partake in the pew, please raise your hand and Elders will come to you where you are seated.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

COMING FORWARD TO PARTAKE

COMMUNION ANTHEM	<i>Ave Maria</i> Bella Land, Soprano	Franz Schubert
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, forever. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem	<i>All Is Well</i> Chancel Choir and Sarah Alexander, Soprano	Arr. by Ronn Huff
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* Song of Dedication	144	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i> <i>What can I give Him, Poor as I am?</i> <i>If I were a shepherd, I would bring a Lamb.</i> <i>If I were a wise man, I would do my part;</i> <i>Yet what I can I give him: Give my heart.</i>	CRANHAM
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* Offertory Prayer

* HYMN	134	<i>Joy to the World</i> <i>Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king:</i> <i>Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,</i> <i>And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.</i> <i>He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove</i> <i>The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,</i> <i>And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.</i>	ANTIOCH
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GOD'S LIGHT SPREADS INTO THE WORLD

(While remaining seated, light from the Christ Candle is passed through the congregation. Please hold your lit candle up and allow your neighbor to light their candle by tilting into the flame. Please be careful with your extinguished candle and deposit it in the baskets as you exit the sanctuary.)

HYMN (Seated) 122 *Silent Night* **STILLE NACHT**

*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, heavenly 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 Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

(Please stand)

*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.*

*** BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *For Unto Us* Arr. by Keith Christopher

*** Please stand as you are able**

Instrumentalists

Trumpet: Evan Thompson and Robert Berry
Trombone: Jessica Bettinger and Joseph Bettinger
Euphonium: Emmett Anglin
Tuba: John Wates

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The loose offering and designated checks this evening will go to support our Backpack Blessing Ministry, providing food to needy children in our schools.

Please remember all end-of-year pledges and gifts must be turned in or postmarked by December 31, 2022, in order to be counted as a 2022 contribution.

Sunday, December 25

Informal worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.
Casual attire is appropriate!
There will be no Sunday School this Sunday.

In observance of Christmas and New Years, please note our holiday office hours:

December 26 and 27 ~ Office Closed
December 28, 29, 30 ~ Office open 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
January 2 ~ Office Closed
January 3 ~ Normal office hours resume