

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION



WESLEY MEMORIAL
A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

DECEMBER 24, 2018 • 11:00 PM

HOLY COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

THE OPENING VOLUNTARIES

O Little Town of Bethlehem..... Robert A. Hobby
(b. 1962)
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come..... Franz Lehrndorfer
(1928-2013)
Variations on "What Child Is This?"..... Craig Phillips
(b. 1961)

WELCOME

† OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray

**O God, you have caused this holy night to shine
with the brightness of the true Light:
Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth,
may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven;
where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns,
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

† PROCESSIONAL CAROL No. 234

O Come All Ye Faithful.....ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to
Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;** Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;** Refrain

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh
to gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;** Refrain

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory
given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;** Refrain

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Ashley & Hunter Morris

(after the lighting of the Christ Candle the congregation will sing)

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!"

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

CAROL No. 240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing..... MENDELSSOHN

**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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**Christ by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, off spring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God head see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Refrain**

**Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth born to give us second birth. Refrain**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 1-20

CHRISTMAS EVE HOMILY

Jeff Patterson

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Holy Night Adolphe Adam

Allison Chickering, soprano

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our 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. Refrain. Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born, O night divine. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand; so, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from the Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials is born to be our friend; He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger; behold your King! Before him lowly bend! Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is Peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His Holy name. Refrain.

†DOXOLOGY No. 95

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

†GREAT THANKSGIVING

Hymnal pg. 13

BREAKING THE BREAD AND BLESSING THE CUP

SHARING OF THE EUCHARIST

(Everyone is welcome to receive communion. The ushers will direct you to a communion station by the center aisle. When you receive the bread, dip it into the cup and eat. Return to your seat by the outside aisle. If you are gluten intolerant, we have a gluten-free station.)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PICARDY

Lo, How a Rose e're Blooming ES IST EIN ROS

Of the Father's Love Begotten DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

In the Bleak Midwinter CRANHAM

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING

(Please tilt your unlit candle towards the lighted candle.)

†CAROL No. 239

Silent Night, Holy 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.

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.

EXTINGUISH YOUR CANDLE AND REJOICE IN THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL No. 246

Joy To The World ANTIQCH

**Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, 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.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love.**

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Neil Harmon
(b. 1967)

(After the Pastors have recessed, the congregation will exit pew by pew.
Please place your extinguished candle in the bins provided as you exit.)

Worship Participants: Jeff Patterson, Senior Pastor; Erin Beall, Associate Pastor for Adult Spiritual Formation and Contemporary Worship; Jared Stine, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care; Frank Pifferetti, Organist; Allison Chickering, Wesley Singer; Grayson Frye, Crucifer; Mary Lyle Frye and Arden Yates Acolytes; Luke Shaw, Bookbearer; T. J. Webb, Banner Bearer.

Tonight's offering will be directed to the Warner Temple AME Zion Church in Wilmington, NC. This sister congregation was devastated by Hurricane Florence. Even with the insurance coverage they will need a significant amount to cover the rebuilding of their worship space.

The flowers in the Chancel for our Lovefeast Service and Christmas Eve Service are given for the Glory of God and in celebration of the birth of Jesus by Nan and Buck Kester and Lee and Alf Webster and in honor of their grandchildren, Rainey and Guy Brewer, Lucy and Lawrence Dempsey, Nora Rose and Robert Kester, George, Thomas and William Webster, Jack and Harris Webster and Bess and Nancy Lyles Webster, and all of God's children everywhere.

The Opening Prayer is from The Book of Common Prayer certified by Charles Mortimer Guilbert, September 1979. Published by The Church Hymnal Corporation and The Seabury Press.