



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Northside Presbyterian Church – Blacksburg, Virginia

December 24, 2024

7:30 pm

GATHERING MUSIC

Carols

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved of God, come together and dream of a world where every belly is fed and every heart is full.

From a manger to a mountainside to a beach by the sea, the Christ child will show us how to feed one another.

Come together and adore the newborn Prince of Peace, who will show us how to share what we have so no one is hungry.

Let us worship the one who will feed his friends and his neighbors, even those who will betray and reject him.

*In the darkness of this holy night, let us remember the One who
broke bread for us.*

**In the light of this holy night, let us remember the
ones who cry out with hunger. O Come, all ye
faithful!**

HYMN – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**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!

**O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come, let
us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to
Thee be all glory given;**

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!

**O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come, let
us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of
heaven above!**

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!

**O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come, let
us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 9:2-7

SPECIAL MUSIC –

Hand chimes choir

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE – Kay and Joe Hunnings

*From the manger, hope, peace, joy, and love are growing—
growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus—the Bread of Life.*

*First, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get
better with compassion and imagination.*

Next, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly and as neighbors.

Then, we light the candle of joy. Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.

Next, we light the candle of love. Love is the care and connecting binding us together with each other and with God.

Long ago, in a town called “House of Bread,” the Bread of Life was born. His mother laid him in a feeding trough where animals eat their food. But this baby came to feed the whole world.

And from this manger, he will grow and leave his home—he will go out into the world, feed the people, and teach us how to love God and one another.

We light the final candle—the Christ candle—because the birth of Jesus changed everything. We must take this light, this Bread of Life, and share it with a hungry world. Behold, Christ is born.

Let us pray:

Loving God, on this sweet, dark night, we gather in the glow of candlelight to celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus, Light of the World, and Bread of Life. As we rejoice in his miraculous arrival, we remember his birth is just the beginning of his work among us. Jesus calls our attention to the children, to the hungry, and to the oppressed, near and far. Fill our hearts with compassion and our hands with generosity, so we might be instruments of love. Bless our efforts and broaden our imaginations to act with kindness and grace. Amen.

**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.**

OLD TESTAMENT – Micah 5:2-5a Lucian Robinson

SPECIAL MUSIC – Ann Marie Conner

GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-7 Rosemary Cole

SPECIAL MUSIC – “*One Small Child*” Ensemble

Placing baby Jesus in the manger – “*Away in a Manger*”

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

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

GOSPEL – Luke 2:8-20

Steve Cole

REFLECTIONS

Linda Dickerson

SPECIAL MUSIC – “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Robin Begnoche and Marya Katz

GOSPEL – from John 1:1-5; 9, 14, 16 - read responsively

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God.*

He was in the beginning with God.

**All things came into being through him, and without him
not one thing came into being.**

*What has come into being in him was life, and the life
was the light of all.*

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not
overcome it.**

**The true light, which enlightens everyone was coming
into the world.**

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory ... full of grace and truth.**

THE CANDLELIGHTING

CAROL

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

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! 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 SENDING FORTH OF THE LIGHT

In the midst of darkness, candles have shone.

Glory to God in the highest!

In the midst of darkness, we have seen the light of Christ!

Glory to God in the highest!

In the midst of darkness, we have been promised peace and good will.

Glory to God in the highest!

In the midst of darkness, we go forth to be the light of Christ.

Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace, goodwill to all. Alleluia! Amen.

CAROL*

“Joy to the World”

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 world! the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

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

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Tonight's musicians: Marya Katz, Robin Begnoche, Ann Marie
Conner, Thomas DeBusk, Hand Chimes Choir
Video Technician – Marshall Chaney

Join us Sunday morning at 10:00 for a service of
Christmas Carols.