



this night, we are
THOSE WHO
DREAM
christmas eve

WORSHIP for the EVE of CHRISTMAS

Prelude 5:30 p.m.
Worship Service 6:00 p.m.

December 24, 2020

Prelude

Calista Koch, Harp

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

God is here! Messiah has come!
We open our eyes to see him afresh.
We lift our hearts to worship him anew.
We have come to lift up the name of Jesus, our Brother and Savior.
We have come to shine all glory on God, who welcomes all.

Welcome to our world, Jesus.

You are God's dream for the world, enfleshed.

You are God's eternal word, living among us.

You are God's endless love, in word and deed.

God is here! Messiah has come!

*Hymn #133

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.

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created! 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.

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.

*Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

pg. 593

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing plunder. For you will break the yoke of slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will be fuel for the fire.

Gathering Prayer

O Immanuel, O Wisdom from on high,
O Lord of might, branch of Jesse's tree,
O Key of David, O Bright and Morning Star, King of nations,
**We rejoice and are glad on this gracious Christmas eve,
for truly you have come, full of grace and truth.
Even now, come into our hearts again.
Show us the path of your knowledge.
Comfort us in our deep mourning.
Save us from our stubborn sins.
Open wide the way to heaven.
Turn our darkness into light.
End our sad divisions and
be our Prince of peace,**
so that every creature in heaven and on earth
will join in a chorus of praise and welcome,
and shout with joy to you, our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

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 Emmanuel!

Words of Welcome

Congregational Greeting

Scripture Reading

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Hymn #115

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.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

While they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

Sermon

This Night ... We Are Those Who Dream

*Hymn #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Affirmation of Faith

1998 Presbyterian Study Catechism

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 angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Question 32. What do we affirm when we say Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary"?

Women: First, that being born of a woman, Jesus was truly a human being. Second, that our Lord's incarnation was a holy and mysterious event, brought about solely by free divine grace surpassing any human possibilities. Third, that from the very beginning of his life on earth, he was set apart by his unique origin for the sake of accomplishing our salvation.

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Question 33. What is the significance of affirming that Jesus is truly God?

Men: Only God can properly deserve worship. Only God can reveal to us who God is. And only God can save us from our sins. Being truly God, Jesus meets these conditions. He is the proper object of our worship, the self-revelation of God, and the Savior of the world.

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 us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Question 34. What is the significance of affirming that Jesus is also truly a human being?

All: Being truly human, Jesus entered fully into our fallen situation and overcame it from within. By his pure obedience, he lived a life of unbroken unity with God, even to the point of accepting a violent death. As sinners at war with grace, this is precisely the kind of life we fail to live. When we accept him by faith, he removes our disobedience and clothes us with his perfect righteousness.

Baptismal Blessing

All are invited to come forward, row by row, to receive a touch of water on the forehead and a verbal blessing at the font. Alternatively, you may pass the font and take your place around the perimeter of the sanctuary for the lighting of the candles.

Sharing the Light of Christ

Hymn #122

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!

Benediction

Postlude

** Indicates congregation standing as able*

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our calling at Northminster Macon is to make disciples, to grow in faith together, and to serve others in Christ.

CONGREGATION: Ministers of the Good News

SESSION of Ruling Elders:

Sam Alderman, III; Boyd Ellison; Judy Hill; Ricky Smith; Ann Weaver
Emily Brown; Beau Kitchens; Lynn Denny; Charlotte Nolan; Sandra Ridgeway

RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate

JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant Benjamin GAIL, Sexton

SANDRA SMITH, Music Director KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session

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Office hours this week:

Monday-Wednesday: 8:00AM-1:00PM; Thursday-Friday: Church closed for holiday