

CHRISTMAS EVE

Holy Communion & Candle-lighting



WESLEY MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

1225 CHESTNUT DRIVE ~ HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA 27265

Holy Communion & Candlelight Service

December 24, 2024

Sanctuary

11 pm

PRELUDE

Medley of Christmas Carols

† *Please stand as you are able*

† GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

The congregation reads bold print

Blessed be God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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.

† HYMN

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.**

God of God, Light of Light Eternal, lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb; very God, begotten, not created; Refrain

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

† THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Hartley and Caleb Janney

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

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.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

† HYMN

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 heav’n 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

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-14

This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS EVE HOMILY

Rev. Jeff Patterson

† *Please stand as you are able*

† The Nicene Creed

We face the cross and profess in unison

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in the one holy *catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*universal

Please be seated.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam/arr. DeCesare

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the 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! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

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. Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

† DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose
power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

† THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and good to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on the night long ago, so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

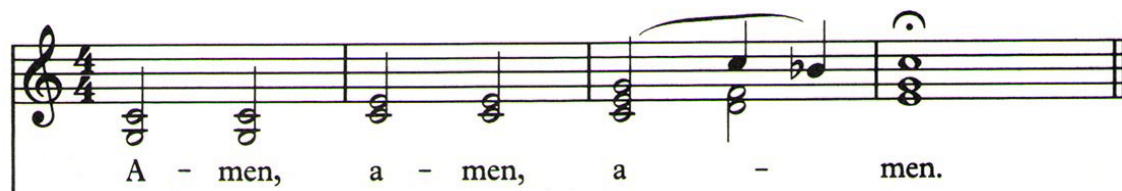
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

Please be seated or kneel.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



SHARING OF THE EUCHARIST

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Angel's Carol

John Rutter

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavn'ly song? Refrain**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain**

**See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid while our hearts in love we raise. Refrain**

SOLO

Birthday of a King

NEIDLINGER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING

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

† *Please stand as you are able*

† HYMN

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 they birth, Jesus, Lord, at they 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

*(After the pastors have recessed, the ushers will direct the congregation to
leave during the last hymn, pew by pew while singing and holding the lighted candle)*

† HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the
mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night, behold through out
the heavens there shown a holy light. Refrain**

**The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel
chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. Refrain**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that
blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

The service will conclude on the front lawn with the singing of “Joy to The World”

PARTICIPATING:

Reverend Dr. Jeff Patterson, Senior Pastor
Reverend Dr. Glenn Myers, Congregational Care/Senior Adults
Reverend Lisa Tanico
Ms. Charli Mills, Director of Traditional Music and Worship Arts
Mr. Chris Ward, Guest Organist
Ms. Laura Hutchins, soprano
Mr. Phillip Leach, baritone
Ms. Patti Wood, flute
Mrs. Laney Morris, lay leader
Mr. David Admas, lay leader

FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING we invite you to join Wesley Memorial in continuing our tradition of generosity and community outreach. This year, our offering will support recovery and rebuilding efforts for our neighbors in the Western North Carolina mountains. The Missions Team has approved three specific areas for this year's offering. Funds will assist Samaritan's Purse as they move into the reconstruction and building phase of recovery. They will also support the repair and restoration of Camp Lin Haven, a cherished place deeply connected to our congregation, where many have attended or sent their children and grandchildren over the years. Additionally, contributions will aid Weaverville United Methodist Church, which continues to serve the surrounding areas through flood relief and long-term recovery efforts. Your generosity will provide hope, resources, and encouragement to these communities as they navigate the rebuilding process. Thank you for your compassion and for being the hands and feet of Christ during this season of giving. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL for our 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, Robert and Burton Kester, George, Thomas and William Webster, Jack and Harris Webster and Bess and Dearie Webster, and all of God's children everywhere.