

CHRISTMAS EVE

Holy Communion & Candle-lighting



WESLEY MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

1225 CHESTNUT DRIVE ~ HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA 27265

HOLY COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2025

Sanctuary

11 pm

PRELUDE

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

arr. Gordon Young

Away in a Manger

John Wilson

† *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.

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 174

O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1, 3, 4)

arr. Willcocks

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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; Glory to God, all glory in the highest; Refrain

† THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Lisa and Wade Tanico

(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.**

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 180

The Herald Angels Sing (verses 1, 2, 3)

arr. Willcocks

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 hosts 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, offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity; pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Refrain

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them 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

arr. Lani Smith

† ADVENT DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

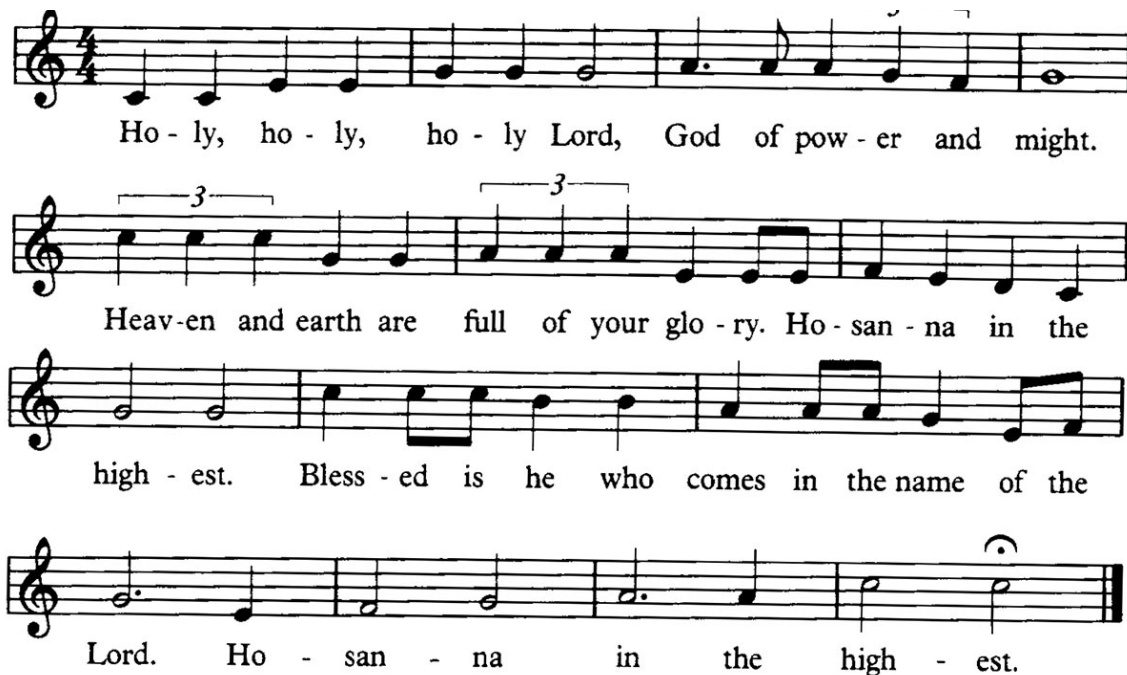
Lift up your hearts.

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:



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.



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

What is This Lovely Fragrance?

arr. Daniel Burton

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. John Purifoy

All Is Well

arr. Lloyd Larson

All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice. For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light. Sing alle, sing alleluia. All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth. Christ is come, go and tell that He is in the manger. Sing alle, sing alleluia. All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing. Born is now Emmanuel; born is our Lord and Savior. Sing alleluia, sing alleluia! All is well.

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*

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL No. 199

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; heav'nly 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

(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)

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

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, Senior Adult Ministry
Reverend Dr. Ken Lyon, Generosity/Church Vitality/Missions
Mrs. Patti Wood, flute
Mr. Phillip Leach, baritone soloist
Ms. Charli Mills, Director of Traditional Music and Worship Arts
Mr. Chris Ward, Organist

USHERS:

Martha Anne Johrendt
Hannah Jennings
McKenzie Maines

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING In this season of generosity and care our Wesley Memorial tradition is to strongly support some of our local mission partners who serve the under resourced in our High Point community. This year we have selected three mission partners that continue to do excellent work providing tangible help and sustaining hope for the individuals and families they serve.

- * C3 - Community Collaboration for Children
- * Community Clinic of High Point serving the medical needs of the uninsured.
- * Second Harvest Food Bank supplies area food pantries that in turn provide needed food to families throughout the High Point area.

Each of these mission partners play a vital role in helping our High Point neighbors who are in challenging circumstances. We can bless their efforts with our financial support. All of this evening's offering will go to Missions. If you would like your offering to go elsewhere, please note the memo line. You may write a check or go online at wesleymemorial.org, tap the "Give" icon and then make your gift online. Thank you for providing a blessing through your gift.

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 Kester and Lee and Alf Webster and in honor of their grandchildren, Rainey and Guy Brewer, Lucy and Lawrence Dempsey, Nora Rose and 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.