

Music at Communion

Before the Marvel of This Night C. Schalk

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow, then
tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow
cease. Sing peace, sing gift of peace! Awake the sleeping world with song,
this is the day the Lord has made. Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal
splendor come arrayed. Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss, a teasing
taste of what they miss: sing bliss, sing endless bliss! The love that we have
known, our joy and endless light, now to the loveless world be shown,
break upon its night. Into one song compress the love,
the love that rules above: sing love, sing God is love!

~ Covenant Choir ~

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Please take care with the open flames, particularly near young children.

*CAROL

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

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Joy to the World ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king!
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

*POSTLUDE

Carillon Sortie H. Mulet

Please place candles in the baskets as you exit the sanctuary.



Large print bulletins and hearing devices are available from the ushers.
Audio-induction hearing loops are installed for use with hearing aids.

WELCOME TO COVENANT

Covenant Presbyterian Church is a dynamic Christian community that gladly invites all people into a transformational experience of faith; boldly proclaims the gospel; bravely works toward a whole and just world; and passionately nurtures discipleship. You may learn more about our life of faith together at our website or on Facebook.

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Evening

- Ian Clark, pastoral resident
- Robert Dicks, associate director of traditional music & organist
- Bob Henderson, senior minister
- Grady Moseley, interim minister of congregational life and pastoral care
- Jessica Patchett, associate minister
- Heather Potter, director of traditional music
- Kenney Potter, choral conductor
- Julia Watkins, pastoral resident
- Bill Cathey, usher team leader

Carolina Chamber Players

- Emily Chatham, Susan Blumberg: violin; Nancy Levine: viola;
- Marlene Ballena: cello; Henry Trexler: double bass

Audio & Visuals

- Cleveland Elam(video), David Balas (projections),
- Dave Welchman (sound)

Cover Image

Shepherds at Night is located in the Sanctuary on the west nave in the first window from the narthex entrance. An angel of the Lord appears to the shepherds from a cloud. A star has come out of Jacob to confirm the prophetic message that Jesus is the long-awaited root and descendant of David. The angel holds the Star of Jacob in his right hand and gestures with his left to a dwelling in Bethlehem, the City of David, bathed in divine light to show where the Christ child is born. The Star of Jacob is also that bright morning star, Venus, rising in our hearts at the break of day as we accept the gift of light offered at the intersection of darkness and light. Reference: Lk2:8-20; Num 24:7; 2 Peter 1:19; Rev 22:16. © 2010 JonSilla.com.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 30, Sanctuary

- One worship service: 10 a.m. (traditional/contemporary blend)
- No Sunday School or Small Group meetings
- Childcare will be available in the Ed Wing

This worship service is being streamed via the Internet and video recorded for online viewing.
If you would not like to keep this bulletin, please recycle it in the bins located in the narthex.



1000 E. Morehead Street • Charlotte, North Carolina, 28204 • 704.333.9071
www.covenantpresby.org



A CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
COMMUNION SERVICE
December 24, 2018
5 p.m.

Covenant Presbyterian is a dynamic Christian community that gladly invites all people into a transformational experience of faith; boldly proclaims the gospel; bravely works toward a whole and just world, and passionately nurtures discipleship.

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

Monday, December 24, 2018, 5 p.m.

Infant soothing rooms with live video of the worship service are available in the balcony. The service can also be viewed in the Chapel and Parlor. See an usher for assistance.

PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo J.S. Bach
I Saw Three Ships R. Elliot

~ Robert Dicks, organ ~

He is Born, the Divine Christ Child arr. M. Naughton
Once in Royal David's City arr. V. Taranto
Gesu Bambino P. Yon

~ Carolina Chamber Players ~

CAROL INTROIT

O Holy Night A. Adam

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour'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! Oh, 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! Oh, praise His name forever,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

~ Sarah Towner, soprano ~

PRAYER OF CHRISTMASTIDE Jessica Patchett

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELIS

**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!**

(refrain)

**You are invited to rise in body or spirit*

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

(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)

SCRIPTURE READING Ian Clark
Isaiah 11:1-3, 6-9 Old Testament, page 602

CAROL

"O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion
get thee up into the high mountain;
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up thy voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid;
say unto the cities of Judah behold your God!
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
arise, shine, for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

~ Barbara Schettler, mezzo-soprano ~

SCRIPTURE READING Grady Moseley
Matthew 1:18-25 New Testament, page 1

CAROL 145

What Child is This GREENSLEEVES

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

SCRIPTURE READING Julia Watkins
Matthew 2:1-11 New Testament, page 1

OFFERING AND THE GIFT OF ANGEL ORNAMENTS

A special offering will support God's work through our mission partners at Highland Renaissance Academy in Charlotte, Renguti School in Kenya and Accion Ministries in the Yucatan.

Each family is invited to select an ornament and take it home (one per family, please). This angel represents the spirit of Christmas from our Covenant family, lighting your home as you place it on your tree. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sussex Carol arr. D. Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth: News of our merciful king's birth.
Then why should we on earth be so sad since our redeemer made us glad?
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place
Heaven and earth with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to all, now and forevermore. Amen."

~ Covenant Choir ~

*CAROL OF PREPARATION 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

(During the singing of the carol of preparation, members of Covenant Church families bring forward loaves of bread which they provide for the sacrament.)

**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!**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

The Words of Institution Bob Henderson

The Communion of the People