



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Sumter

December 18, 2022

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Carols Sing

Arr. by Ken Denton

WELCOME

Bonnie Disney

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

Christ the Lord is Coming
Children's Choir

Michael Burkhardt

* **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Colin, Tiffany, Madelynn and Millie Davis

Leader: Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only begotten Son, that we might have new life.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, that you became flesh and dwelt among us.**

Leader: Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you draw near to us in the holy moments of our lives and call us to be your children. Today we light the candle of love. The hope, peace, and joy of this Advent season are joined by the light of love which brightens our journey toward loving all people with the compassion and mercy of gentle Jesus, child of Mary. As love came down and was born in Bethlehem, we pray for love to be birthed anew in our families, our church, our nation, and throughout the whole, wide world.

People: **With hope, peace, joy, and love, we come to worship and praise the living God.**

Christ, Be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine thorough the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** 105 (V. 1 and 5) *People, Look East*

BESAMCON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Light of the world, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus, the Christ. In him we know that we are to love all people, no matter the cost. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born within us that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service. We bring our brokenness and our sins to your mercy.

(Silence for Personal Confession)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The new life of love has begun in each one of us. The mercy of God sets us free to be the gentle, compassionate people of God.

People: **The child, born of Mary, is the savior of the world. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

* **GLORIA** 113 *(Congregation) Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

GLORIA

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9
(Pew Bible, pg. 640, Old Testament)

Grayson Alexander

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25
(Pew Bible, pg. 1, New Testament)

Rev. Bob Brearley

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Rev. Bob Brearley

NATIVITY STORY

Presented by the Children of the Church

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*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.*

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

*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 first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.*

We Three Kings of Orient Are

THREE KINGS

*Angels: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Congregation: We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*Children: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*Congregation: While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a heavenly light.*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

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

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

What Child Is This
Lauren Decker, Violin Solo

Arr. by Catherine McMichael

* The Song of Dedication

144

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

* The Offertory Prayer

* HYMN OF DEDICATION 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

* BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

BRING A TORCH

*Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

The First Noel

Setting by John Carter

* *The Congregation is invited to stand.*

Mary: Millie Davis
Joseph: Charlie Coulter
Baby Jesus: Samuel & Sawyer Stafford
Isaiah: Lucas DuBose
John the Baptist: Murrell Smith
Gabriel: Caroline Thames
Head Angel: Ligon Ferguson
Innkeeper: Connor Thames
Luke: Brogdon Hill
Centurion: Harry Berger
Sheep: Vivian Bettinger, Buck McElveen, John Hilton, Jackson Stafford

King 1: Sebastian Bettinger
King 2: Colton Thames
King 3: Charlie Thames
Head Shepherd #1: Adelaide McElveen
Head Shepherd #2: Gwen Bettinger
Shepherd #3: Joe McElveen
Angel: Mary Taylor Moorman
Angel: Julia Ferguson
Angel: Cora Lee Thames

Thank you to Millie Davis for providing the artwork for this morning's bulletin cover.

ADVENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, December 18

5:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Service of Comfort & Hope

For those experiencing grief and discomfort during the holidays.

Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Music by the Chancel Choir, Brass Ensemble, and Soloists

Sunday, December 25

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Informal Worship Service

This morning's rose is placed in celebration of the birth of Martha Kathryn Price, daughter of Kate (McElveen) and Nick Price, who was born December 12. Proud grandparents are Kathy and Joe McElveen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Milo Abbott (Grandson of Norma Abbott),
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Joni Brown on the death of her sister, Melissa Boord, who died December 13 in Woodbridge, Virginia.

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