

Order of Worship

Christmas Carol Service

December 28, 2025



Gathering and Announcements *The Birthday of a King*

Prelude *The Christ Child* – by R.G. Hailing

Carol Tyson, organist

Chime Choir Anthem *Auld Lang Syne (Encore)* – arr. Kathleen Wissinger
Bruce Vineyard, Director

***Call to Worship**

In the name of Christ I welcome you to the Christmas Carol service.

We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent, we will be following the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us respond with lively faith.

(All pray in silence for a while)

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

***Opening Carol # 134 Joy to the World**

First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2, 6 - 7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Call for the offering

With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

Offertory *It Came Upon The Midnight Clear* -- arr. R.S. Willis

Carol Tyson, organist

***Doxology # 606 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

*** Prayer of dedication**

Gracious and loving God, in this season of giving and receiving gifts, we thank you for your indescribable gift of your only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With gratitude and joy, we bring our tithes and offerings today. With your blessing, may they be multiplied and used to share the good news and love of Jesus Christ. Thank you, God, for your many blessings and your claim on our lives to share them with others. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Carol # 145 What Child Is This

Second Reading: Micah 5: 2 – 4

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

Carol # 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Solo *Lullaby – by John Ness Beck*

Soloist, Bob Tyson

Third Reading: Luke 2: 1 – 20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger'. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol # 115 *Away in a Manger*

Fourth Reading: John 1: 1 – 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.

Carol # 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful

Prayer and Blessing

The Word of life which was from the beginning we proclaim to you. The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining; the Word of life which was from the beginning. That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes, and touched with our own hands, we proclaim to you. For our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. The Word of life which was from the beginning we proclaim to you.

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

All Sing: *Auld Lang Syne

1) Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?

Should old acquaintance be forgot and old lang syne?

Chorus -

For auld lang syne, my dear

for auld lang syne

We'll take a cup of kindness yet

for auld lang syne.