

Participating in the Services

Todd Jones, Pastor
Stuart Gordon, Executive Pastor
Adam DeVries, Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families
Sandra Randleman, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions
Josh Rodriguez, Associate Pastor for Young Adults
Nicholas Bergin, Organist
Rhonda Swanson, Assistant Organist
Raphael Bundage, Sanctuary Choir Conductor
Shona Wood, Soloist

Suzanne Short, Angel Messenger (8:00)
Grace Rader, Angel Messenger (11:00)
Elyse Bartleson, Cross Bearer (8:00)
Bonner Kirkland, Cross Bearer (11:00)
Lilly Bartleson, Banner Bearer (8:00)
Fred Peters, Banner Bearer (11:00)

Prelude Musicians

Nicholas Bergin, Organ
Rhonda Swanson, Organ
Chamber Bells: Nicholas Bergin, Bekah Caruso, Susan DeVries, Don Fisher,
Lewis Frost, Daphne Garey, Dee Ann Stone
Wendy Bergin, Recorder
Julie DiTraglia, Soprano

Readers of Scripture (in order)

8:00 Service:
Sandra Randleman, Bob LaGrone,
Helen Rieke, Nancy Eason, Adam DeVries,
Ron Pasquale, Josh Rodriguez, Stuart Gordon,
Bob Loflin and Todd Jones

11:00 Service:
Sandra Randleman, Jimmy Webb,
Zach Smith, Suzan Hindman, Adam DeVries,
Larry Gates, Mary Lindley Carswell, Stuart Gordon,
Bob Loflin and Todd Jones

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Two Carol Settings

In the Bleak Midwinter
Ukrainian Bell Carol

arr. Matthew Prins

CRANHAM
SHCHEDRYK

FPC Chamber Bells

Three Carol Settings

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
Cold December Flies Away
Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies

arr. Carlton R. Young

JESOUS AHATONHIA
LO DESEMBRE CONGELAT
HUAN-SHA-XI

Rhonda Swanson, Organ

Three Renaissance Dances

Traditional

Wendy Bergin, Recorder

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Appalachian Folk Song
arr. John Jacob Niles

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head. You has got a manger bed.
All the evil folk on earth sleep in feathers at their birth.
Have you heard about our Jesus? Have you heard about His fate?
How His mama went to that stable on that Christmas Eve so late?
Winds were blowing, cows were lowing, stars were glowing.
To that manger came then wise men, bringing things from hin and yon
For the mother and the father and the blessed little Son.
Milkmaids left their fields and flocks and sat beside the ass and ox.
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head. You has got a manger bed.

Julie DiTraglia, Soprano

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Todd Jones

Leader: And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid;
for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy
which will come to all the people;

People: **for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ, the Lord.”**

(Luke 2:10–11)

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

IRBY

Once in Royal David’s City

Stanza 1: Solo

Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Stanza 4: All

**For He is our childhood’s pattern,
day by day like us He grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us He knew:
and He feeleth for our sadness,
and He shareth in our gladness.**

Stanza 2: Choir Only

He came down to earth from Heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Stanza 5: All

**And our eyes at last shall see Him,
through His own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and He leads His children on
to the place where He is gone.**

Stanza 3: All

**And through all
His wondrous childhood
He would honor and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as He.**

Stanza 6: All

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him; but in heaven,
set at God’s right hand on high;
when like stars
His children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Sandra Randleman

With quietness, O God, our hearts stand near the simple stall where Jesus was born to Mary. The noise of the world is stilled and the peace of this night descends upon all people of good will, whether they be wise or simple. Help us to think on the meaning of this night, to ponder in our hearts the wonder of Your love for us. Fill us with gladness, that hearing again the Christmas story, we may journey in its light, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray. . .

THE LORD’S PRAYER

(debts)

Hymnal, page 35

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1–14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS

***HYMN**

STILLE NACHT

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stanza 1

**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.**

Stanza 3

**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.**

Stanza 2

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born.”**

Stanza 4

**Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born.**

***BENEDICTION**

Todd Jones

***CLOSING HYMN**

ANTIOCH

Joy to the World

Stanza 1

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing.**

Stanza 3

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found.**

Stanza 2

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy.**

Stanza 4

**He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love.**

May the peace and joy of this Christmas fill every heart and home.

***CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Louis Vierne

Finale from Symphony No. 1

MEDITATION

Todd Jones

ANTHEM

Arr. David Willcocks

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing
(Sussex Carol)*

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 men 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;
angels and men 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 men,
now and for evermore. Amen.

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1–11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

***HYMN**

ST. LOUIS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Stanza 1

**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.**

Stanza 2

**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.**

Stanza 3

**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.**

Stanza 4

**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!**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8–15

Adam and Eve rebel against God.

ANTHEM

Carl Schalk

Before the Marvel of This Night

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 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 heavenly bliss,
a teasing taste of what they miss:
sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known,
our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown,
now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love
that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love!

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15–18

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his
seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

ANTHEM

John Rutter

Past Three O'Clock

*Past three o'clock, and a cold frosty morning,
Past three o'clock, good morrow, masters all!*

Born is a baby, gentle as may be,
Son of the eternal Father supernal.
Seraph quire singeth, Angel bell ringeth:
hark now they rime it, time it, and chime it.
Mid earth rejoices hearing such voices
ne'ertofore so well carolling Nowell.
Hinds o'er the pearly dewy lawn early
seek the high stranger laid in the manger.
Light out of starland leadeth from far land princes,
to meet Him, worship and greet Him.
Myrrh from full coffer incense they offer:
nor is the golden nugget withholden.
Thus they: I pray you, up, sirs, nor stay you
till ye confess Him likewise, and bless Him.

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2–7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

ANTHEM*Candlelight Carol*

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water?
 How do you count all the stars in the sky?
 How can you measure the love of a mother,
 or how can you write down a baby's first cry?
 Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow
 shine on His cradle till breaking of dawn.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.
 Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore Him;
 seraphim round Him their vigil will keep;
 nations proclaim Him their Lord and their Savior,
 but Mary will hold Him and sing Him to sleep.
 Find Him at Bethlehem laid in a manger,
 Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
 Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
 a child with His mother that first Christmas Day.

My sweetest bird thus 'tis required,
 Though Thou be King veray;
 but nevertheless I will not cease
 To sing, by, by, lullay, to sing by, by, lullay.

That child or man, who will or can
 Be merry on my day,
 To bliss Thou bring and I shall sing,
 Lullay, by, by, lullay.

FOURTH LESSON*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

Isaiah 11:1–9

HYMNIt Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

**For lo, the days are hastening on,
 by prophet bards foretold,
 when with the ever-circling years
 comes round the age of gold;
 when peace shall over all the earth
 its ancient splendors fling,
 and the whole world give back the song
 which now the angels sing.**

SIXTH LESSON*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Luke 2:1–7

ANTHEM

Michael W. Smith
 and Wayne Kirkpatrick
 arr. Ronn Huff

All Is Well

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! All is well.

FIFTH LESSON*The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.*

Luke 1:26–38

ANTHEM*This Endris Night*

Malcolm Archer

This endris night I saw a sight,
 A star as bright as day;
 and ever among a maiden sung
 'Lullay, by, by, lullay, lullay, by, by, lullay.'

This lovely lady sat and sang,
 And to her child did say:
 'My son, my brother, father, dear,
 Why liest Thou thus in hay?'

SEVENTH LESSON*The shepherds go to the manger.*

Luke 2:8–21

ANTHEM*My Lord Has Come*

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels;
 no place for them but a stable.
 My Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in Heaven;
 no place for them but a stable.
 My Lord has come.

His love will hold me, His love will cherish me, love will cradle me.
 Lead me to see Him, sages and shepherds and angels;
 no place for me but a stable.
 My Lord has come.