

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

*A Festival of Lessons and Carols*

*in Celebration of  
the Incarnation  
of our Lord  
Jesus Christ*

December 24, 2021 | 4:00 p.m.

**The Prelude .....Christmas Medley**

Diana Bowers, Piano | John McCutcheon, Organ | Ann Biese & Julia Porter, Flute | Alayna Bowers, Trumpet

**The Welcome and Introduction**

**\*Scriptural Call to Praise.....Psalm 34:1-2**

**\*The Opening Prayer**

**\*Opening Hymn .....“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,  
 2. God of God, Light of Light;  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him  
 lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be -  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God, all  
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels;  
 got - ten not cre - at - ed; O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est;  
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**The First Lesson** .....Isaiah 9:2-7, 11:1-9

Dr. Larry Mehne

*The coming kingdom and peace that Christ will bring are foretold.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shone...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the

earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

**\*The First Carol....."O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

- 1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
- 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
- 3. O come, thou rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
- 4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
- 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,  
Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law  
• tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,  
draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 • and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

**The Second Lesson**.....**Luke 2:1-20**  
 Mr. Nathan Bowers

*Luke the Evangelist tells of the birth of Jesus and of the first to worship the new born king.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in

swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**The Second Carol** ..... "Angels We Have Heard on High"

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

**The Third Lesson**.....Matthew 2:1-11

Mr. Ryan Biese

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

\*The Third Carol ..... "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;  
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by:  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

**The Evening Prayer**

**The Homily** ..... "Limitations"

Rev. Ryan Biese

**I. The Promise**

**II. The Peace**

**III. The Pilgrims**

# The Hymn of Response ..... "Joy to the World!"

Musical notation for the first system, including treble and bass staves with a 2/4 time signature and a key signature of two sharps (D major).

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves with a 2/4 time signature and a key signature of two sharps (D major).

Musical notation for the third system, including treble and bass staves with a 2/4 time signature and a key signature of two sharps (D major).

King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,  
play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

Musical notation for the fourth system, including treble and bass staves with a 2/4 time signature and a key signature of two sharps (D major).

Musical notation for the fifth system, including treble and bass staves with a 2/4 time signature and a key signature of two sharps (D major).

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
and heav'n and na - ture sing,

Musical notation for the sixth system, including treble and bass staves with a 2/4 time signature and a key signature of two sharps (D major).

and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

**\*The Closing Prayer**

**\*The Lighting of the Candles**

*Please remain standing in the pews. The candle lighters will come to you; please dip the unlit candle into the flame and then allow those near you to dip their unlit candles into yours.*

**\*The Candlelight Carol** ..... "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

**\*The Dismissal**

# Silent Night! Holy Night!

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon  
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries  
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light, ra - dant  
4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ias to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!