

WAKE FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2016

Preparation for Worship

Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

There must be always remaining in every life, some place for the singing of angels, some place for that which in itself is breathless and beautiful.

Prelude

God Bless the Child

Words & Music by Arthur Herzog Jr. & Billie Holiday

Arr. by Lee Evans

- * Lighting the Advent Candle

Lia Scholl

One candle shines as shadows lengthen and chaos roars—the dawn of God’s kingdom in our midst.
Courage awakens in us, a spark to brighten the way.

Two candles shine as light peeks through the cracks and God’s dream overflows.
Vision awakens in us, a spark to brighten the way.

Three candles shine as God’s promise draws near, beckoning us to be good news in body and spirit.
Justice awakens in us, a spark to brighten the way.

Four candles shine as God’s purpose is revealed in word and flesh.
Possibility awakens in us, a spark to brighten the way.

Radiant flash and feeble flame break through; a long time coming, yet so unexpected.
Christ is coming to make all things new!

- * Carol

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching, o’er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior’s birth.
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.

- * Invocation

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADEST FIDELES

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!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, allglory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The Christmas Story

Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”

The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

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.

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-7

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

Carol

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.

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 God, Emmanuel.

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:8-20

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Christmas Story Matthew 2:1-12
Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:
‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

* **Carol**
We Three Kings

*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 light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

* **Offertory Response**
Angels from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE
*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
you who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, here among us shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

* **Offertory Prayer**

Reflection Lia Scholl

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

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hill, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

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

* **Benediction**

Postlude Woody Faulkner
**Please stand as you are able.*

*Wake Forest Baptist Church is a progressive, welcoming and affirming
Christian community committed to Jesus Christ. We value prophetic
worship, thoughtful religious education, social justice, and peacemaking.*



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