

# WAKE FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH

## CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2016

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### Preparation for Worship

Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

The evergreen singing aloud its poem of constant renewal,  
The festive mood spread lilting magic everywhere,  
The gifts of recollection calling to heart the graces of life,  
The star in the sky calling to mind the wisdom of hope,  
The warmth of candlelight glowing against the darkness,  
The birth of a child linking past to future,  
The symbol of love absorbing all violence.

### Prelude

*Silent Night*

STILLE NACHT

### \* 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!**

### \* Advent Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

***O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.***

***Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge of show, and cause us in her ways to go.***

***Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

### \* Invocation

Worship Leader, 11 point

### Reading

*The God We Hardly Knew*

Oscar Romero (1917-1980)

No one can celebrate  
a genuine Christmas  
without being truly poor.  
The self-sufficient, the proud,  
those who, because they have  
everything, look down on others,  
those who have no need  
even of God- for them there  
will be no Christmas.  
Only the poor, the hungry,  
those who need someone  
to come on their behalf,  
will have that someone.  
That someone is God.  
Emmanuel. God-with-us.  
Without poverty of spirit  
there can be no abundance of God.

### The Christmas Story

Bethlehem

### Carol

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

***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

The Holy Family

### Carol

*Once in Royal David's City*

***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.***

### The Christmas Story

The Manger

### Carol

*Away in a Manger*

AWAY IN A MANGER

***Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

***The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.***

***Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.***

### Reading

*In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

### The Christmas Story

The Shepherds

### Carol

*What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

***What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud  
the babe, the son of Mary.***

*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.***

### The Christmas Story

The Magi

### 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.***

**The Christmas Story**

The Gifts

**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.*

*Silent night, holy night. shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born!*

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

**Reading**

*The Work of Christmas*

Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.

**\*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 blesséd Christmas morn.*

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

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Woody Faulkner

*\*Please stand as you are able.*



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