

Gathering Music - "Sing We Now Of Christmas", Betty Polk & Brooks Parker, piano duet

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", DPC Handbell Choir

Call to Worship

Leader: We are waiting for news, and news is coming

People: Good news of a great joy that shall be for all people

Leader: We celebrate the coming of the Christ child

People: A savior born to set all people free

Leader: Glory in the highest, and peace to men on Earth

People: Let us bow down and worship Him

Invocation

- **Opening Hymn** – #143 – Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Ann Marie McFarland, Carol Dover

In the beauty of this Advent season, we light candles of hope and peace.

As we work to make the earth as it is in heaven:

The joy of the Lord fills our hearts and reminds us of the true meaning of this season.

We light this candle as a sign of God's presence and grace.

We light this candle to remember that Christ is our joy.

(The third candle is lit, and a moment of silence is observed)

Our joy is not found in wrappings or trimmings, or under a tree.

Our joy comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth!

And the day is coming when the whole world will know God's joy!

Reading - "Joseph and the Whispers", Mike Terry

Anthem – "Glory In The Highest"

Who could have imagined this? Infant and the infinite

Son of God so wonderful, Heaven's perfect miracle

Glory in the highest, glory in the highest

Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Jesus Lord of everything

Glory in the highest

Born to die and born to save, born to take our sins away

Light and life to all He brings, with the angels let us sing

Glory in the highest, glory in the highest
Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Jesus Lord of everything
Glory in the highest

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Who could have imagined this? Infant and the infinite
King of all, so meek and mild, God and sinner reconciled

Glory in the highest, glory in the highest
Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Jesus Lord of everything
Glory in the highest

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Reading - "The Shepherd and the Smell", Tony Pritchett

Anthem – "Adore"

You stepped down from Heaven, humbly you came
God of all creation here with us
In a starlit manger, Emmanuel, light of the world here to save

Adore, come let us adore, O come let us adore Him
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord, let all that is within us adore

The wisemen bring their treasures, shepherds bow low
Angel voices sing of peace on Earth
What have I to offer to Heaven's king?
I will bring my life, my love, my all

Adore, come let us adore, O come let us adore Him
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord, let all that is within us adore

Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King
Peace on Earth, here with us, joy awakening
At your feet we fall

Adore, come let us adore, O come let us adore Him
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord, let all that is within us adore

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Reading - "The Starlight and the Darkness", Carol Battle

Anthem - "Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven"

Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby under a wondrous star
Like us, crying He takes His first breath, held by His mother helpless
Close to her beating heart
Jesus, born in a lowly manger, facing a world of danger
Come to turn me a stranger into a child of God

Jesus, king of the highest heaven, learning to take His first steps that He might bring
us life
Like us, knowing our smiles and sorrows, He showed the way to follow
A way that is true and right
Jesus, take away every darkness, steady my simple footsteps
That I might in your goodness live as a child of God

Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby under a wondrous star
Like us, crying He takes His first breath, held by His mother helpless
Close to her beating heart
Jesus, born in a lowly manger, facing a world of danger
Come to turn me a stranger into a child of God

Reading - "The Wood and the Pain", Lee Fox

Anthem - "Somewhere In Your Silent Night"

All is calm and all is bright everywhere but in your heart tonight
They're singing carols of joy and peace
But you feel too far gone and too far out of reach

Somewhere in your silent night, Heaven hears the song your broken heart has cried
Hope is here, just lift your head
For Love has come to find you somewhere in your silent night

From Heaven's height to manger low,
There is no distance the Prince of Peace won't go
From manger low to Calvary's hill,
When your pain runs deep His love runs deeper still
He has always loved you, child, and he always will

Somewhere in your silent night, Heaven hears the song your broken heart has cried
Hope is here, just lift your head

For Love has come to find you somewhere in your silent night

Lift your head, lift your heart, Emmanuel will meet you where you are
He knows your hurt, He knows your name, and you're the very reason that He came

Somewhere in your silent night, Heaven hears the song your broken heart has cried
Hope is here, just lift your head
For Love has come to find you somewhere in your silent night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Love will find you

Reading - "Mary and the Tears", Zora Mallory

Anthem - "Little Drummer Boy"

Come they told me, pa rum pum pum pum
A new born king to see, pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum
To lay before the king, pa rum pum pum pum,
So to honor him, pa rum pum pum pum
When we come

Little baby, pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum
That's fit to give our king, pa rum pum pum pum,
Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum
On my drum

Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum
I played my drum for him, pa rum pum pum pum
I played my best for him, pa rum pum pum pum,
Then he smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum
Me and my drum

I'll play for you on my drum

Meditation – Dr. Paul Casner

- **Hymn** - #113 – Angels We Have Heard On High

- **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that God has come to us as a little child,

making our weakness his strength, securing our salvation by becoming one of us,
filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.
We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world,
giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts,
making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority,
declaring an everlasting reign of peace, defeating the power of pain and suffering.
We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love,
inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table,
transforming us as disciples to go out into the world,
sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort,
challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.
This is what we believe. This is the story we'll tell.

Offertory

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER, who art in Heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

- **Closing Hymn** - #134 - Joy To The World

Postlude - "Good King Wenceslas", DPC Handbell Choir

The (●) dot in the order of worship invites you to stand as you are able. Text in **bold** indicates unison reading.

Participating In Today's Service:

Walter Scott, keyboards

Brad Benge, bass

Bryan Brock, drums



December 14 – Dot New Circle, 10am

December 19 – Advent IV – Jazz Trio, Children's Choir, Messages & Music from "A Charlie Brown Christmas", 10:15am

December 24 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 6:00pm

**We warmly welcome all who have come to worship with us today. If you are a guest at Donelson Presbyterian Church, we encourage you to fill out a yellow visitor card which you will find in the pew.

Pastoral Care Team: Chairs - Tina O'Connor and Joy Roark; Members - Lenna Aris, Velma Bartley, Melanie Caskey, Beth Chiles, Ann Cox, Charlene Dodson, Diane Ingram, Grace Lewis, Betty Polk, Jim White, Ruth White, Jill York

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