

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude – Shepherd’s Pipe Carol, Dale Wood

• **Call to Worship**

Good news! Great joy!

Jesus Christ is born!

Good news! Great joy!

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Invocation

- **Sounds of Faith** – #133 O Come All Ye Faithful

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Carol Battle, Laura Piper

Leader: In the beauty of this Advent and Christmas season, we light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. We light this center candle, the Christ candle, to remember that Christ is the Light of the World and we are sent forth to be that Light for the world.

People: We rejoice that Christ has been born!

All: We rejoice that God now invites us to go and tell the entire world this Good News!

• **Prayer of Confession**

We trust that God is merciful and receives our prayers with grace.

In humility, let us confess our sin together.

Holy God,

you have come among us in Jesus Christ, hallowing our humanity and embodying love.

We confess that we have turned from the path Jesus has marked,

failing to claim all you intend for us, withholding love from our neighbors and ourselves.

Forgive us. Be born anew in us, that our lives might reflect Christ’s radiant light.

Christ came to the world to save sinners.

Let us have hope, for in the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

- **Response** - #147 The First Nowell (Refrain)

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Luke 2:1-14, Liturgist, Laura Piper

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:;) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son,

*and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men. The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.***

Special Music – Angels We Have Heard On High (Current Logos Choir and Alumni)

Scripture: Luke 2:15-20

*And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.***

Meditation

- **Sounds of Hope** - #143 Angels From The Realms Of Glory

- **Affirmation of Faith**

The holy child of Bethlehem came to cast out sin and to bring to us the gift of salvation. Let us open our hearts to receive what God seeks to give. Let us take the Christ child into our hearts, and love others as he has loved us. Amen.

Special Music - God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen, Petersons / Carol Battle, Zora Mallory (vocals), Tony Pritchett (guitar), Randy Mallory (dobro)

Giving and Offertory – There's A Star In The East, Spiritual/Carter

The Lord's Supper

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

- **Sounds of Love** – Silent Night with the lighting of the candles (See Insert)

- **Benediction**

Postlude – Go Tell It On The Mountain, Spiritual/Carter

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

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TONIGHT



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****We warmly welcome all who have come to worship with us tonight. 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.**