



Bethany Presbyterian Church

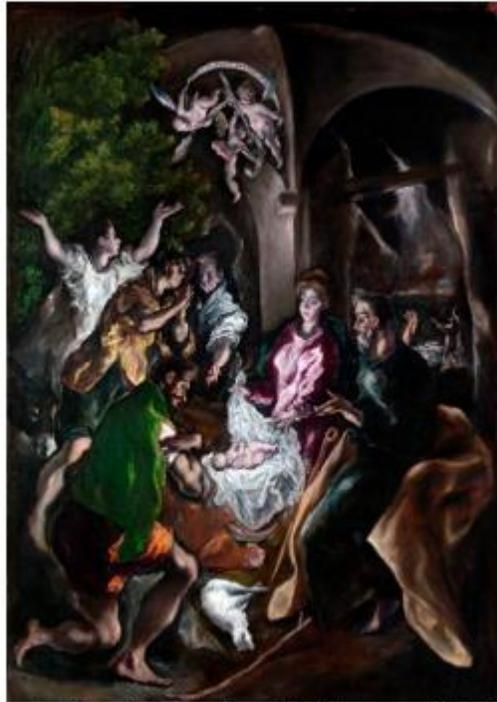
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 25, 2022 – 11:00 am

Christmas



"The Adoration of the Shepherds," El Greco c. 1605-1610

When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully.

Luke 2:17-19 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Merry Christmas! Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess, *Winter: Liturgical Resources for November, December and January* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Productions, 2016).*

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *For Unto Us a Child is Born*

G.F. HANDEL/ARR. & ABRIDGED BY ROSS ANDERSON, FROM "THE MESSIAH"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"ANGELS SAY," RUTH BURGESS

Angels say – "Don't be afraid."
Angels mean it.
The love of God
is always stronger
than our fear.

***CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

"GOD IN A MANGER," RUTH BURGESS

God in a manger,
God of surprises,
help us to unwrap
your present to us
this Christmas:
show us how to celebrate
your birth simply,
with justice
and with holy joy. *Amen.*

OPENING CAROL #41: *O Come, All Ye Faithful

JOHN FRANCIS WADE

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!

Refrain:

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 this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing! **[Refrain]**

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
Glory in the highest! **[Refrain]**

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 95:6-7

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 740

LUKE 2:8-20

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1245

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL #49: *Once in Royal David's City*

CECIL F. ALEXANDER

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.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

TIME OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***CAROL #28:** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

JOHN MASON NEALE

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart, and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Least Likely"*

REV. PHILLIPS

CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION

"WE BELIEVE IN CHRISTMAS," RODDY HAMILTON IN "SPILL THE BEANS"

We believe in Christmas.
We believe that the words of the prophet speak of justice
to the oppressed
and care for the widow are God's Word that sets the world free.
For love came down at Christmas.
We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.
We believe that the light of the world that crushes all shadows
and exposes all lies
is God's light that shines through every shadow.
For love came down at Christmas.
We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.
We believe that the song of the angels that celebrates peace on earth
and to all people on the earth
is God's peace that the world cannot find but Jesus can offer.
For love came down at Christmas.
We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.
We believe that Mary's poem Magnificat, where God turns everything
upside down,
where the poor are lifted up and the powerful are brought down,
is God's poem that changes the balance of the world.
For love came down at Christmas.
We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.
We believe the Word became flesh,

the promise is fulfilled,
the light breaks through,
the lowly are lifted up
and the baby cries.
For love came down at Christmas.
We believe in Christmas.

***CLOSING CAROL #40:** *Joy to the World*

ISAAC WATTS

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 us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

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, wonders, of His love.

***SENDING**

"THE SONGS OF THE ANGELS," SIMON TAYLOR

May the song of the angels
the joy of the shepherds,
the wonder of the wise men,
and the peace of the newborn king
fill our hearts and homes
this Christmastime and always.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Alleluia!*

W.A. MOZART/ARR. BY GARY DAVIDSON

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

December 25th – Christmas Day

Christmas is on a Sunday morning this year! Merry Christmas to us! We will hold a shorter, casual service at 11 to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

January 1st – New Years Day/First Sunday of Christmas

The first Sunday of Christmas happens to be New Years Day this year. We'll have another more informal service with a carol sing.

January 8th – Baptism of the Lord/Epiphany Sunday

We will celebrate the new year with a service that will include the Sacrament of Communion and once again we'll chalk the doors, just like we did last year. We will also hold a brief Congregational Meeting to elect a Nominating Committee for this year's class of Elders.

January 29th - Brunch Church

It's our first Fifth Sunday of the year. We will celebrate with a Brunch Church service at 11. Invite your friends!

Scouts Looking for Storage Space

Pack and Troop 9 Scouts are looking for a Donor to provide a 1,000 Sq foot storage type building, or warehouse, to store the following Scout Equipment:

2 camping trailers , 1 sailboat (Sailing Merit Badge), 1 demo car (Automotive Merit Badge).

Space needed for security and protection from the weather.

Feel free to contact:

Jeff Benes - Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9

(336) 675-9086 cell

benes.nc@att.net

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, December 25th – Christmas

11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

Wednesday, December 28th

6:30 – No Choir Practice

Sunday, January 1st - Christmas 1

11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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