



Sunday, December 25th, 2011 10:00 am

A Celebration of the Birth of Our Savior

Prelude "Variations on a French Noel" arr. David Sarandon

Call to Worship (Unison) *adapted from St. Augustine (AD 354-440)*

Let the just rejoice, for their justifier is born.
Let the sick and infirm rejoice, for their healer is born.
Let the captives rejoice, for their redeemer is born.
Let all slaves rejoice, for their master is born.
Let free men rejoice, for their liberator is born.
Let all Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born.

Hymn No. 28 "Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

A Litany for Christmas (Leader, **People**) *from Robert Louis Stevenson*

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,

And the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts.

May we be forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Hymn No. 24 "Away In a Manger"

Prayers of Confession (Leader, **People**)

On this Christmas day, as another year draws to a close, we come together before God and with one another, confessing the ways in which we have been caught up in the frenzied spirit of the holidays, and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace;

The times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires, that we have neglected the voices of your children who cry out for Justice;

Choosing to focus on making the season perfect, we have turned away from the hurting people and broken places in our world in need of healing;

For the times we have dismissed Christmas as a time only for children, and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of Love.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word Become Flesh, our Savior and King, hear us as we humbly pray,

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. *(Silent confession)*

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn No. 47 "Still, Still, Still"

Offering Our Gifts To God

Offertory "O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. John Wade

The Birth of Christ in Scripture

Hymn No. 57 "The Snow Lay on the Ground"

Sermon "Is There Room in My Heart?"

Hymn No. 27 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Benediction

Postlude "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"
traditional French carol

In the pulpit: Rev. G. W. "Blake" Blakesley, III, Pastor

Today's organist: Jason Moore

The chancel flowers are given by David and Mary Fry in loving memory of their parents, Edward and Emma Pelger and Richard and Fern Fry.

Welcome! On Sunday, January 1, there will be **only one** worship service, with communion, at 10:00 a.m. This will be an informal service for the whole family, and there will be no Sunday School.

Poinsettias can be picked up for delivery immediately following the service this morning or if you can help the Deacons deliver poinsettias on Monday, December 26, come between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Additional Poinsettia Memorial: By David Johnson and children in loving memory of Charlotte Johnson, wife and mother.

Ushers at this morning's service: Team D - Claude Donaldson, Captain; Bryan Eshelman, June Fulton, Dan Hagenbuch, Russ Scotti, Russ Waddell

To everyone: God's blessings upon you. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Our Staff:

Rev. G. W. Blakesley, III, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Canon, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Wonjae Choi, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dick Kauffman, Parish Associate

Ellie Horan, Office Administrator

Ragip Kasgur, Sexton

Eileen Honea, Staff Secretary

Jason Moore, Music Director

Meghan Meloy, Interim Organist

Elaine Warren, Early Worship Pianist

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