

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Variations on "Morning Star"
Away in a Manger

Hamilton Stoddard, Organ
Margaret Sandresky
James Murray

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

Christmas Is Coming
Children's Choir

Traditional

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice, for God is with us – Emmanuel.

Many: In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

One: Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

Many: God is truly with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

Matthew Blankenship

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Cheek Family

Reader: The angels said, "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy!"

People: To us this day in the city of David, a Savior is born.

Reader: Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies while well-worn fabric holds in the warmth of parental love. Tonight, animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a little baby is embraced by the world.

People: Tonight we give thanks for every child among us, the potential of tomorrow and the promise of Emmanuel, God with us.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Reader: On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know that he is born and nothing will ever be the same.

All: God of grace and glory, as we celebrate this Christmas, transform our hearts and our lives so that your Good News is not an old story but a fresh truth lived out every day through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM

Light One Candle
Children's Choir with Kayleigh Jordan and Madison White, Handbells

Mark Patterson

* HYMN OF PRAISE 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

CALL AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kathryn Blanding

Merciful God, we confess we have not lived as you ask us to. At times we forget to treat everyone as we would like to be treated. For all these sins, we ask for your forgiveness, your love and your grace. Gracious God, we ask that you remake us so we are more like you. Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming. Help us remember that Christmas is about your promises of hope, salvation, and love. Rock us out of our complacency. Let us hear angels voices, see shepherds hurrying to a stable, feel the baby's soft breath on our cheeks, and ponder in our hearts what all this means for the world and for us. Amen.

(written by Kathryn Blanding)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ivey Edwards

Friends, Christ came into the world to be for us the way, the truth and the life and to cleanse us from all of our sins. Know you are forgiven and be at peace. Now as forgiven people, let us stand and pass the peace of Christ to one another.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WELCOME

Reverend Ashley Cheek

NATIVITY STORY

Presented by the Children of the Church

Please join us in singing the first verse of the following hymns throughout the story:

121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

115 *Away in a Manger* MUELLER

147 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL

151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are* THREE KINGS

Lydia Cheek, Solo, then Congregation

136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* GO TELL IT

Children's Choir, then Congregation

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Kayleigh Jordan

All that we are and all that we have is God's. On this Holy Night let us give our offering in response to God's great love.

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Anthem

Angels We Have Heard on High
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Nan Partridge, Piano
Kayleigh Jordan, Piano
Kathryn Blanding, Piano

* The Song of Dedication

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

* The Offertory Prayer

Gracyn Coker

Gracious God, we thank you for this night and that you came to live and dwell among us. We rejoice as the angels and shepherds with the news of your birth. Help us to use these tithes to shine your light in the world and help us to honor you in all we say and do. Amen.

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Reverend Nick Cheek

One : The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: We give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O Holy Night
Michelle Blassengale, Soprano

Adolphe Adam

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Reverend Nick Cheek

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.

*Please stand as you are able.

Bold type indicates congregational response.

SERVICE OF LIGHTS

*A light from the Christ Candle is passed through the Congregation
(To avoid wax burns, hold your lighted candle up straight, and allow the unlit candle to tilt into the flame.)*

* HYMN:

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! Son of God, love \Rightarrow pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*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.*

* CHARGE

Owings Holler

* RESPONSE

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*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.*

*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.*

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Carillon-Sortie

H. Mulet

Luke: Kenny Jordan
Isaiah: Alex Blum
Gabriel: Nan Partridge

Mary: Ann Weathers Blankenship
Joseph: Jennings Frerichs
Baby Jesus: Colton Thames

Centurion: Katie Croft
Innkeeper: Caroline Moorman
Star: Lydia Cheek

Shepherds:

Camden Blanding
Woods Blanding
Matthew Blankenship
Nicholas Cheek

Anna Kate Coker
Ellis Coker
Richard Dwight
Brogdon Hill

Owings Holler
Mikayla Jenkins
Ellie Stutz
Nicholas White

Sheep: Dylan Jenkins, Connor Thames

Cow: Nolan Abbott

Wisepeople:

Cooper Hill

Bee Smith

Emma Smith

Angels:

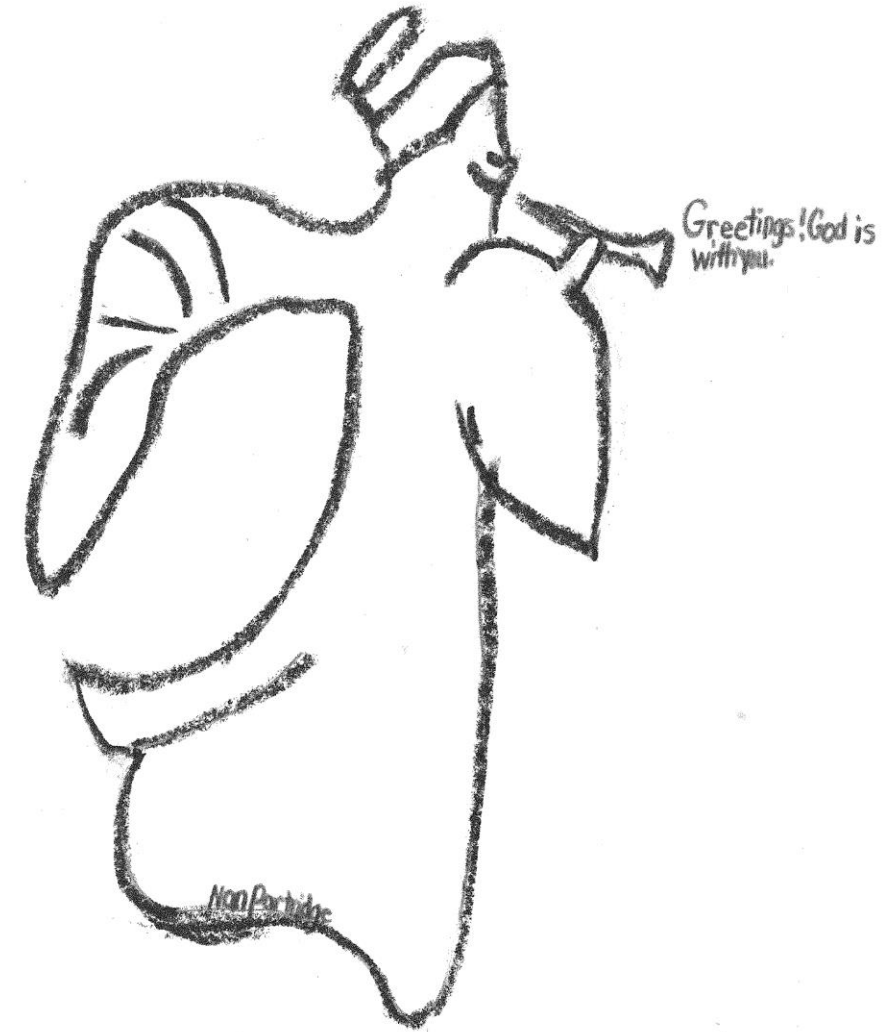
Ada Cheek
Gracyn Coker
Riley Coker
Emma Grace Freeman
Julia Anne Kitchings

Lucy Claire Kitchings
Adelaide McElveen
Elizabeth Pierce
Marion Pierce
Harrison Ross

Julian Smith
Murrell Smith, III
Gracie Stutz
Madison White

Assistant Director: Ansley Blanding

First Presbyterian Church



Christmas Eve Service of Communion and Candlelight

9 West Calhoun (at the corner of Main)

Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3814 Office
(803) 778-2739 Fax
www.fpcsumter.org

The artwork on the cover of this evening's bulletin was drawn by Nan Partridge.