

First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2023

4:00 PM



✦ *Please stand if you are able*

REFLECTIONS TO PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR WORSHIP

Gaze on that helpless object of endless adoration!
Those infant hands shall burst our bands and work out our salvation.
Strangle the crooked serpent, destroy his works for ever,
and open set the heavenly gate to every true believer.

– *Charles Wesley*

God has set a Savior against sin, a heaven against a hell,
light against darkness, good against evil,
and the breadth and length and depth and height of grace
that is in Himself for my good,
against all the power and strength and subtlety of every enemy.

– *John Bunyan*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your Son Jesus.
Grant that we who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer may with sure
confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.

PRELUDE..... REFORMATION BELLS

“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

“WE THREE KINGS”

“THE FIRST NOEL”

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE..... THE FLUHRER FAMILY

✦ CAROL OF JOY ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels, from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

Chorus

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

Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with us is now abiding
Yonder shines the infant Light

Chorus

Sages, leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations
Ye have seen His natal star

Chorus

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord, descending
In His temple shall appear

Chorus

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One

Chorus

FIRST LESSON **LUKE 2:1-7**

In the Darkness of Oppression, There Is the Light of Salvation

✦ **CAROL OF LIGHT** **LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand

King of kings, yet born of Mary
As of old on earth He stood
Lord of lords in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish!
As the darkness clears away.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Lord Most High!

SECOND LESSONLUKE 2:8-12

In the Darkness of Fear, There Is the Light of Joy

✦ CAROL OF PRAISEALL MY HEART THIS NIGHT REJOICES

All my heart this night rejoices
As I hear far and near
Sweetest angel voices
“Christ is born,” their choirs are singing
Till the air ev’rywhere
Now with joy is ringing

Forth today the Conqueror goeth
Who the foe, sin and woe
Death and hell, o’erthroweth
God is man, man to deliver
His dear Son now is one
With our blood forever

Shall we still dread God’s displeasure
Who, to save, freely gave
His most cherished Treasure?
To redeem us, He hath given
His own Son from the throne
Of His might in heaven

He becomes the Lamb that taketh
Sin away and for aye
Full atonement maketh
For our life His own He tenders
And our race, by His grace
Meet for glory renders

(continued)

Hark! A voice from yonder manger
Soft and sweet, doth entreat
“Flee from woe and danger
Brethren, from all ills that grieve you
You are freed; All you need
I will surely give you”

Dearest Lord, Thee will I cherish
Though my breath fail in death
Yet I shall not perish
But with Thee abide forever
There on high, in that joy
Which can vanish never

THIRD LESSON **LUKE 2:13-16**
In the Darkness of Anxiety, There Is the Light of Peace

✦ **CAROL OF PEACE** **HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th’angelic hosts proclaim
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Chorus

Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King”

(continued)

Christ, by highest heav'n adored
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel

Chorus

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth

Chorus

FOURTH LESSON **LUKE 2:17-20**
In the Darkness of Uncertainty, There Is the Light of Wonder

♠ **CAROL OF WONDER** **SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW**

See, amid the winter's snow
Born for us on earth below
See, the tender Lamb appears
Promised from eternal years

Chorus

Hail, thou ever blessed morn
Hail, redemption's happy dawn
Sing through all Jerusalem
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Lo, within a manger lies
He Who built the starry skies
He Who, throned in height sublime
Sits amid the cherubim

Chorus

Sacred Infant, all divine
What a tender love was Thine
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this!

Chorus

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child
By Thy face so meek and mild
Teach us to resemble Thee
In Thy sweet humility

Chorus

DEVOTIONAL GABRIEL N. E. FLUHRER

LUKE 2:10-11

“WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANITY DIFFERENT”

✦ CAROL OF LIGHT SILENT 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

(continued)

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's 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!

✦ **BENEDICTION** **REVELATION 22:21** **ESV**
Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.
People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

POSTLUDE..... **REFORMATION BELLS**
“WHAT CHILD IS THIS?”

