

***Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring*, by J. S. Bach, 1745 (from the Cantata #147, chorale)**

Jesu, joy of man’s desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright, drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light. Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned. Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying round Thy throne.

***Angels We Have Heard on High*, French Carol – 1862/Gloria**

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, in Excelsis Deo! Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!

***Where Are You Christmas?* words and music by Will Jennings, James Horner and Mariah Carey-2000, from Dr. Seuss’; as sung by Faith Hill**

Where are you Christmas? Why can’t I find you? Why have you gone away? Where is the laughter you used to bring me? Why can’t I hear music play? My world is changing. I’m rearranging. Does that mean Christmas changes too? Where are you Christmas? Do you remember the one you used to know? I’m not the same one. See what the time’s done. Is that why you have let me go? Oh, Christmas is here, everywhere, oh, Christmas is here, if you care. If there is love in your heart and your mind. You will feel like Christmas all the time. Oh. I feel you Christmas, I know I found you. You never fade away. Oh. The joy of Christmas stays here inside us, fills each and every heart with love. Where are you, Christmas? Fill your heart with love. Mm...

***A Baby Changes Everything*, words and music by Tim Nichols, Craig Wiseman, K.K. Wiseman-2004, as sung by Faith Hill**

Teenage girl, much too young, unprepared, for what’s to come. A baby changes everything, a baby changes everything. Not a ring on her hand, all her dreams and all her plans. A baby changes everything, a baby changes everything. The man she loves, she never touched. How will she keep his trust? A baby changes everything. A baby changes everything. And she cries, ooh, she cries. Oh. She has to leave, go far away, Heaven knows she can’t stay. A baby changes everything. She can feel it’s coming soon. But there’s no place, there’s no room. A baby changes everything. And she cries, oh she cries. Shepherds all, they gathered ‘round, up above, a star shines down. A baby changes everything. A choir of angels sing, glory to the newborn King. A baby changes everything. Hallelujah! My whole life was turned around. I was lost but now I’m found. A baby changes everything! [This] baby changes everything!

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, words by Charles Wesley-1734; music by Felix Mendelssohn-1840**

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 angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

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

***And the Glory of the Lord*, by G.F. Handel 1741, (from Part I of the Oratorio “Messiah”), text from the book of Isaiah 40.**

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

***Joy to the World*, words by Isaac Watts 1719, music by G. F. Handel 1741 (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 nature sing!

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy!

***The Friendly Beasts*, English carol – arr. Mack Wilberg 2008**

Jesus, our brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude. And friendly beasts around Him stood, Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

“I”, said the donkey, all shaggy and brown. “I carried His mother uphill and down, I carried her safely to Bethlehem town.” “I”, said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

“I”, said the cow, all white and red, “I gave Him my manger for His bed, I gave Him my hay to pillow His head.” “I”, said the cow, all white and red.

“I”, said the sheep, with the curly horn, “I gave him my wool for a blanket warm, He wore my coat on Christmas morn”. “I”, said the sheep with the curly horn.

“I”, said the dove from the rafters high, “I cooed Him to sleep that He should not cry, we cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I”, “I”, said the dove from the rafters high.

Thus every beast, by some good spell, in the stable dark was glad to tell of the gift he gave Immanuel, the gift he gave Immanuel.

***The First Noel*, English Carol 1871**

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

***O Holy Night*, arr. Craig Courtney 1989**

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior’s birth; long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night, when Christ was born. O night, divine, o night, o night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace! Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy and grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, His power and glory evermore proclaim.

He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger; behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!

***Silent Night*, words by Joseph Mohr, music by Franz Gruber, (Stille Nacht) arr. Craig Courtney 1991**

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright. ‘Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy Infant so tender and mild, O 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’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.

***O Come, All Ye Faithful*, words and music by John F. Wade, 1743 (Adeste Fideles)**

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:

***Son of God*, words and music by Tony Wood, David Hamilton, Michael W. Smith, arr. by Russell Mauldin 2007**

Son of God, purest Light, Lord on High, is here tonight, stepping through this sacred sky, suddenly our eyes behold heaven’s perfect plan unfold. Son of God.

Son of God, Love Divine, timeless One, steps into time. Who could dream of such a thing? With us now, the King of Kings, men and angels bow and sing, singing Alleluia, Alleluia!

We’re singing Gloria, Alleluia! We’re singing Gloria, Alleluia! Emmanuel! Our God is with us! Gloria!

Son of God, purest Light, Lord on High, is here tonight!

MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THOMASVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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IVAN H. M. PEDEN
Senior Minister

PEGGY A. FINCH
Associate Minister

RODNEY W. DENTON
Associate Minister

LYNDA C. HEPLER
Minister of Children & Families

December Fifth, Two Thousand Ten
Second Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



GATHERING AND GREETING

Gathering Music da Capo Brass

GREETINGS and INVOCATION Reverend Doctor Ivan Peden

ENTRANCE

*PROCESSIONAL *God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen* Mr. Brian Vannoy

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen Chancel Choir,
Arr. Mack Wilberg Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP *For Unto Us, A Child Is Born* Chancel Choir
From *Messiah*-G.F. Handel

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON I Isaiah 40:1-5 Tom and Janet Smith

HYMN *O Little Town Of Bethlehem* Congregation
O Little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

CAROL *Star Of Bethlehem* Mrs. Priscilla Oldaker
Rick Vale, arr. Bryce Inman and Children’s Choir

LESSON II Micah 5:2, 4-5; Luke 2:1-7 The Oldaker Family

HYMN *What Child Is This?* Congregation
What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, hast to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

CAROL *Jesu, Joy Of Man’s Desiring* Chancel Choir
Cantata No. 147 - J. S. Bach

LESSON III Luke 2:8-20 Steve and Ann Whitten

HYMN *Angels We Have Heard On High* Congregation
Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Refrain: “Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!”

CAROL *Where Are You Christmas?* Tracy Marion
A Baby Changes Everything (Medley)
As sung by Faith Hill

LESSON IV Matthew 2:1-11 Mark and Tracy Marion

CAROL *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Congregation
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 angelic
host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

CAROL *And The Glory Of The Lord* Chancel Choir
From *Messiah* – G. F. Handel

LESSON V Philippians 2:9-11 The Hepler Family

CAROL *Joy To The World!* Congregation
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 all their songs employ; while
fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

HYMN *The Friendly Beasts* Neal Holladay, Tom Holladay,
English carol – arr. Mack Wilberg Blake Williams, Tom Smith

HYMN *The First Noel* Congregation
The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

HYMN *O Holy Nigh-Silent Night Medley* Chancel Choir
Arr. Craig Courtney
(The congregation is invited to join in the last verse of Silent Night as directed by Mr. Cates:)
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.

*HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Congregation
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:

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION Dr. Peden

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Son Of God* Chancel Choir
Smith-arr. Mauldin Mr. Laverne Mohl - baritone

*CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mr. Vannoy
arr. Pope

* *Please stand, as you are able.*

LIBRETTO

Processional on *God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen*, arr. Mack Wilberg 2008, Text by David Warner This arrangement is unpublished and is on loan to MUMC Chancel Choir by courtesy of Mr. Wilberg, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. We sincerely thank Mr. Wilberg for his generosity!

Did humble shepherds-gentlemen whisper through the night of prophets and of prophecies promising God’s might-to quickly come deliver them, vanquish all their fears; to bind up people’s grieving hearts, wounded through the years?

Or did those shepherds dream in peace, trusting God above, until His angel, bright and fair, brought His word of love-awakening shepherds young and old, trembling sore afraid, while heavenly hosts declared the news, answering the please all men prayed?

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day, to save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray: O tidings of comfort, tidings of comfort, tidings, comfort and joy.

Then merrily those gentlemen wiped away all their tears, and careless of their weariness, heedless of their years, flew happily cross the shepherd’s field bearing deep within the wonder of God’s love for all-shepherds, us, and all our kin!

In Bethlehem in Jewry, this blessed babe was born, and laid within a manger, upon this blessed morn, of which His mother, Mary, did nothing take in scorn; O tidings of comfort, tidings of comfort, tidings, comfort and joy. And from that little manger bed where the baby lay, those merry, gentle gentlemen heralded the day alive in Christ, the Lord of all, hastening to proclaim what comfort and what joy we know witnessing His name! With joy! Tidings! Joy! Praise and joy! Comfort, joy! Christmas joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface: O tidings of comfort, tidings of comfort, tidings, comfort and joy!

***For Unto Us a Child is Born*, by G.F. Handel 1741, (from Part I of the oratorio “Messiah”), text from the book of Isaiah 9.**

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, unto us, a Son is given, for unto us a Child is born, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

***O Little Town of Bethlehem*, music by Lewis Redner-1868, words by Phillips Brooks-ca. 1868**

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by, yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight.

***Star of Bethlehem*, (as sung by Sandi Patty), words and music by Vale-Inman**

There is a child whose wish for Christmas lies far beyond what she can see. And with the sunrise she runs to rainbows end, searching for her dream. She sits alone where none can reach her, beside the tree with silver trim. And in the evening, she wishes on a star for another friend.

Chorus: Star of Bethlehem, Star of Bethlehem, I can see you shining bright, Star of Bethlehem. Guide me to the Child of Light, Star of Bethlehem.

There is a child within a manger whose love can reach the smallest heard, from Kings to shepherds, to every one of us whose dreams have been torn apart, and He was born for all the children who watch the snow and dream their dreams. He is the sunrise, He is the Child of Hope, the Star of Bethlehem.

***What Child is This*, words by Wm. Dix 1865, music – Greensleeves/16th century English melody**

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.