



First Baptist Church  
Greensboro, North Carolina gathers for  
**The Worship of God**  
Christmas Eve

(†) indicates standing as able.  
Hearing devices are available in the narthex.

Steeple Bells 5 p.m.

Opening Sentences Rev. Alan Sherouse

Voluntary Rev. Doug Vancil *organ*  
*"At Christmastide"* by Charles V. Stanford

†Responsive Reading Terri Vancil

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

**For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;**

authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless  
peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

**He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness,  
from this time onward and forever.**

The zeal of the Lord will do this.

—Isaiah 9.2-7

†Carol 173

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES*

A treble descant for stanza three is provided in the carol leaflet.

Prayers of God's People Rev. Courtney Willis

†Carol 155

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem" ST. LOUIS*

Children are invited to meet Rev. Amy Starr Russell at the chancel on the last stanza of the carol. Afterward children may return to their families, and parents are welcomed to accompany their children.

A Time for Children Rev. Amy Starr Russell

Gospel Lesson Rev. Chris Cherry

Luke 2.1-20

†Carol 152

*"Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA*

Meditation Rev. Sherouse

†Carol 162

*"The First Noel, the Angel Did Say" THE FIRST NOEL*

Please sing stanzas one, two, and six only.

Offering Emphasis Rev. Buck Cochran

Musical Offering Rev. Vancil *organ*

*"The Peace May Be Exchanged" by Dan Locklair*

Christ Candle The Sherouse Family

†Confession of Faith

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**He was in the beginning with God.**

All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being.

**What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.**

The light shines in the darkness,

**and the darkness did not overcome it.**

The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.

**He was in the world,  
and the world came into being through him;  
yet the world did not know him.**

He came to what was his own,

**and his own people did not accept him.**

But to all who received him, who believed in his name,  
he gave power to become children of God,

**who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh  
or of the will of humans, but of God.**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

**and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.**

—from John 1.1-5, 9-14

Carols (Please refer to the carols leaflet.)

*“Morning Star, O Cheering Sight”* Della Sherouse soloist  
*“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

†Blessing Rev. Sherouse

†Carol (Please refer to the carols leaflet.)

*“Joy to the World”* ANTIOCH

Please return bulletins and candles to the receptacles at each exit.

†Organ Dismissal Rev. Vancil, organ

*“Carillon-Sortie on The First Noel”* by Franklin D. Ashdown

## The Worship of God

### Christmas Day

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Opening of the Bible Warner Sherouse

Opening Sentences Rev. Alan Sherouse

Voluntary Christmas Orchestra, Ashley Barret oboe soloist

*“Fantasia on GREENSLEEVES”* by Ralph Vaughan Williams

†Responsive Psalm 97 Terri Vancil

The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

**Clouds and darkness surround the Lord,  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God’s throne.**

Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.  
The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

**The heavens declare your righteousness, O Lord, and all the peoples see your glory.**

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!

**Bow down before the Lord, all you gods.**

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O Lord.

**For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.**

You who love the Lord, hate evil!

**God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

Light dawns for the righteous and joy for the honest of heart.

**Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to God’s holy name.**

†Carol 146

*“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”* ANTIOCH

Words of Friendship Rev. Courtney Willis

A Time for Children Rev. Amy Starr Russell

†Carol 157

*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”* IN DULCI JUBILO

Prayers of God’s People Rev. Chris Cherry

†Carol 171

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* MENDELSSOHN

Responsive Reading Rev. Buck Cochran

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

**Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord of Zion.**

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

**The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

—Isaiah 52.7-10

Musical Offering Terri Vancil *soprano soloist*

*"How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them"* by G. F. Handel

Gospel Lesson Rev. Cochran

†Carol 156

*"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"* PUER NOBIS

Meditation Rev. Sherouse

†Carol 150

*"What Child Is This"* GREENSLEEVES

†Blessing Rev. Sherouse

†Carol *"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"* WALTHAM



I heard the bells on Christ - mas day their  
I thought how, as the day had come, the  
And in de - spair I bowed my head: "There  
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God  
Till, ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, the



old fa - mil - iar car - ols play, and wild and sweet the  
bel - fries of all Chris - ten - dom had rolled a - long th'un -  
is no peace on earth," I said, for hate is strong, and  
is not dead, nor doth God sleep; the wrong shall fail, the  
world re - volved from night to day a voice, a chime, a



words re - peat of peace on earth, good will to all.  
bro - ken song of peace on earth, good will to all.  
mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to all."  
right pre - vail with peace on earth, good will to all."  
chant sub - lime, of peace on earth, good will to all.

Words: Henry W. Longfellow, 1807-1882

Music: John Calkin, 1827-1905

†Silent Prayers for World Peace

†Steeple Bells Peal

Today's orchestra is made possible by the family of  
**Margaret Wilson**  
in her memory on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.