



Emerging Star 2 by Virginia Wieringa

First Baptist Church

Greensboro, North Carolina

The Worship of God

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Steeple Bells 5:00 p.m.

Voluntary Matt Messick

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Arranged by Don Hustad

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Old Testament Lesson Rev. Seth Hix

Isaiah 9:2-7

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 onwards and for evermore.

†Carol 173

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

Children are invited to meet Pastor Amy at the front during the last stanza of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. Afterward children may return to their families.

Time for Children Rev. Amy Starr Russell

Carol 162

"The First Noel, the Angel Did Say" THE FIRST NOEL
(stanza 1)

Prayers of God's People Rev. Courtney Willis

Gospel Lesson Rev. Chris Cherry
Luke 2:1-20

†Carol 152

"Angels We Have Heard on High " GLORIA

Meditation Rev. Sherouse

†Carol 155

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" ST. LOUIS

Offering Emphasis Rev. Buck Cochran

Offertory Meditation Rebekah Carlson *violinist*, Matt Messick *pianist*
"O Holy Night" By Adolphe Adam

Christ Candle Alan, Jenny, Jack, Della, Warner and Bea Sherouse

Confession of Faith

John 1:1-5, 9-14

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 man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol Della Sherouse *soloist*

"Morning Star, O Cheering Sight" HAGEN

solo:

1. Morn-ing Star, O cheer-ing— sight! — Ere — thou —
2. Morn-ing Star, my soul's true Light, — Tar - ry —

1. all: 2. solo:

cam'st how — dark earth's — night! Morn-ing night! Je - sus —
not, — dis - pel — my — night; Morn-ing night; night;

all: solo: all:

mine, in — me shine; in — me shine, Je - sus

mine; fill my heart with light di - vine.

Candlelight Carol

"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.*

*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.*

*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.*

†Blessing Rev. Sherouse

†Carol

"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.*

*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.*

*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.*

†Postlude Matt Messick

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Arranged by Don Hustad

CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN POINSETTIAS TO
ADORN THE CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY.

In Memory

Ruth Angel by son, David Angel

Dr. Fred and Cheryl Austin by Gayle and Charles Adams

Caroline and Marion Barbee by Laura Lomax and Phil Barbee

Walter Beale by Lollie White

Clara and Horace Bennett by Jeff Bennett

Susan Maureen Bieber by Mary Ellen Burke and Pete Bieber

Kenneth Brannon by his family

Mary B. Caffee by Don B. Caffee

Betty and Baxter Campbell by Tim Campbell

Michael Campbell by Tim Campbell

Ralph S. Cox by Frances G. Cox

Jerry and Jean Cranford by Ann Durbin

Peter DeVries by Delia DeVries

Jean Dilday by daughter, Cheryl Angel

Connie Donaldson by Cindy Kohler

Dwight Russell Fickling by Frances Fickling and Amy Fickling

John Fisher by his Family

Joyce and Bill Granberry by daughter, Julie King and the King Family

Iris and LeRoy C. Hand, Jr. by Ted Hand and Claire Johnson

LeRoy C. Hand, III by Ted Hand and Claire Johnson

Hugh and Nell Hill by WK and Betty Morgan

Bill and Pat Johnson by Gordon Johnson and Family

Mary and Raymond Johnson by Ted Hand and Claire Johnson

Jeannie Smith Jones by Courtney Willis

Richard E. Kennedy by Kaye Kennedy and the Shively Family

Harold R. Kohler, Jr. by Cindy Kohler

Dot and Fred Lomax by Laura Lomax and Phil Barbee

KC and Rita Morgan by WK and Betty Morgan

Hugh Myrick by Cindy Myrick

Pat and Norma Prince by Rick & Susan Spell and Ross, Laura Caroline & Palmer Grey Rick
Charles and Madeline Proctor by daughter, Beverly & Craig Sherouse
David Charles Ruberg by Ted Hand and Claire Johnson
Sara Sears by her husband, Tom Sears
Marilue J. Sheffield by Everett Sheffield
Doc and Clyde Sherouse by son, Craig & Beverly Sherouse
Don Shively by Ryan and Kim Shively
R.B. Spell by Rick and Susan Spell and Ross, Laura Caroline & Palmer Grey Rick
Donna Stanley by Megan Kesler
Aunt Audrey by Aaron and Aiden Kane
Dr. Edwin Vaughan by Monica Vaughan
James Watkins by Diane Watkins
Bob and Mable Ann Wiggins by Pam, Perry, Courtney and Steven Key
Vida and Fred Williams by Lollie White
David Worsley, Sr. by Dave Worsley and Family
Kaye Worsley by Dave Worsley and Family
Dear Zenobah by Bob and Bunny Godfrey

In Honor

Sidonna Black by Jim and Lynne Greene
Chris and Sandra Canipe by Anita Cranford
Scott Culclasure by Lollie White
Jewell Davis by Larry Davis
FBC Preschool Teachers by the Culbreth Family
Keighley Johnson by Ellis and Helen Vaughan
Faye and Vernon Moore by the Kennedy Shively Family
Palmer Grey Rick by Rick and Susan Spell
Elvina Spell by Rick and Susan Spell and Ross, Laura Caroline & Palmer Grey Rick
Rick and Susan Spell by Ross, Laura Caroline and Palmer Grey Rick
Doug and Terri Vancil by Don Fuller
The Ladies of WMU 2 and WMU 3 by Frances Fickling and Amy Fickling

POINSETTIAS CAN BE TAKEN HOME AFTER THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING



Each year, First Baptist Greensboro invites a special offering at our Christmas Eve service. The recipient is thoughtfully and prayerfully selected by our Missions Committee. This year, our Christmas Eve Offering will support the work of Baptist Women In Ministry (BWIM).

A longtime partner of First Baptist Greensboro, BWIM's mission is "to support women who pursue ministry and leadership with sustaining resources and community, and to advocate for the full affirmation of women in ministry and leadership in Baptist life."

As a Baptist church who fully affirms women in all positions of leadership and ministry, First Baptist Greensboro is grateful for a longstanding partnership with BWIM. At a time when many Baptist churches continue to preclude women from pastoral and leadership roles, BWIM's work only grows in importance. As the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary, it has also embarked on a three-year campaign to expand its work in supporting women and lowering the barriers they experience in ministry. Gifts to BWIM support advocacy and educational efforts, fund scholarships for women pursuing theological education, provide opportunities for mentoring and solidarity, and encourage churches and congregants to grow in a biblical understanding and affirmation of women as ordained leaders.



As we collect this offering on Christmas Eve, we remember again the essential role that women have always held in proclaiming and embodying the good news. In a recent Children's Sermon, Associate Pastor for Children & Families, Rev. Amy Starr Russell, asked the children to reflect on God's call to Mary to bear and birth Jesus into the world. "What does that say to you about God?" she asked. One young girl answered, "It seems like God had a lot of confidence in Mary." We believe God has confidence in us — all of us — to join fully and without limitation in the work of love. Thank you for considering a special gift to BWIM as they further this work. Learn more about Baptist Women In Ministry at bwim.info



You can give at fbcgso.org/give or scan the QR code.