



DECEMBER 17, 2023
11:00 AM
BURNING BRIGHT: JOY

Greeting

Mrs. Karen McAmis

Celebration of Believers' Baptism

Pastor Blake Bengé

Allison Vollman, Maria Rose Bell, Leah Guthrie
Connor Jones, Reece Jones

Hymn 76

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Hymn 54

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Lighting the Advent Candle and Prayer: JOY

Bruce & Becky Herrmann

Advent Song

Burning Bright

Blankenship

VERSE 1:

Like a candle on a window sill
Breaks the darkest cold of winter's chill
Like the radiant glow of a tiny flame
Holds out hope we still can change
We're burning bright, oh oh
We're burning bright...tonight
We're burning bright

VERSE 2:

Like a candle held close to your chest
For loved ones we have laid to rest
Or lifted high in quiet praise
For peace on earth with voices raised
We're burning bright, oh oh
We're burning bright...

BRIDGE:

Like joy in the morning, like a song in the rain
Like love in the middle of your pain, like you and me together
Across a great divide
Like Jesus was really born one silent night

VERSE 3:

*Like a candle on a window sill
Is Christ the hope of nations still
He's burning bright, oh oh
He's burning bright...tonight
He's burning bright, oh oh
He's burning bright...tonight
We're burning bright*

Ministry Highlight: Christmas Mission Offering & Prayer

Rev. Susie Reeder

Guest: Irma Duke

Hymn 87

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

Message

Burning Bright: Joy

Pastor Bengé

Hymn of Response 77

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Prayer of Commitment

Mr. Michael Pleasant

Offertory Music Feature

What Child Is This?

Men's Ensemble

Helvey

Recognition of Decisions

Pastor Bengé

Special Church Conference: Committee on Committees Report

Mr. Jason McAmis with Ms. Donna Oswalt

Special Recognition: Bruce Herrmann

Pastor Bengé

Benediction

Ms. Oswalt

Postlude

Mrs. Donna Davenport, organist

INVITATION TO RESPOND

- Comment on Facebook
- Share this worship service on your social media
- Email a decision or prayer request to info@snydermbc.com
- As comfort and common sense allows, reach out to your next door neighbors. Be a neighbor. Share and show Christ.

Are you visiting with us today? Just scan the QR code for more info. We'd love to get to know you!



TAKE IT WITH YOU

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night... and the glory of The Lord shone around them... For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord... you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger..."

Luke 2:8-20

The third week of Advent, most often signifying Joy, is also known as the Shepherd's candle. High above a Bethlehem field the Glory of the Lord appears breaking the silence of the night, revealing to shepherds where to find Christ the Lord! Considered the least in society, shepherds, believed to be unclean, could not even worship in the Temple; yet, God chooses these with simple faith to go and find the baby Jesus. The least, the simple, the willing shepherds.

Some scholars suggest that sheep to be used for sacrifices in the Temple in Jerusalem were frequently kept in the fields around Bethlehem, and that perhaps the very shepherds the angel appeared to were keeping watch over these sheep. While the shepherds could not even be witnesses in legal situations, perhaps it is irony that they become the first people to bear witness and testify to the birth of Jesus. These shepherds, who society deemed some of its most unworthy, receive the first invitation to see the Lamb of God. The unclean, the unworthy, the invited shepherds.

This Advent season reconsider these God-chosen ones. In the Christmas Story, shepherds of simple faith and willing to respond are key figures, but society calls them unworthy and unreliable. The shepherds hurry to find Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. Then when the shepherds had seen Him, they quickly tell everyone what happened and what the angels said. And all who heard marveled at what the shepherds told! Do we see others through God's eyes or accept society's view? Are we willing to recognize Jesus in the least, the simple, the unexpected? Aren't we ALL unclean, sinners who are unworthy? Yet, God chooses each of us ~ rich or poor, scholar or laborer, old or young, thriving or struggling, successful or defeated! God desires each of us to come and meet Christ, and, just like the shepherds, to go tell our story! The willing, the invited, the chosen!

~ Donna Oswalt

BURNING BRIGHT | JOY

Holiday happiness can be a lot of fun, but sometimes it gets confused with Christmas Joy. In that confusion Christmas Joy can get lost. Being clear, Christmas Joy is important because Christmas will never truly be Christmas without joy Burning Bright.

Conclusion:

As Americans, we should enjoy our God given right to pursue happiness at the holidays and all year long. As followers of Jesus, we should be full of Christmas Joy all lifelong and on to eternity. This joy comes by way of growing our relationship with Him and fulfilling our purpose as we follow Him. It is in this relationship and purpose that the light of Joy will Burn Brightly in us and for those around us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Merry Christmas, D. W. and Grace Henderson - together in Heaven! With love, your family.

JOIN US THIS AFTERNOON AS WE SAY "THANK YOU" TO BRUCE AND BECKY HERRMANN: We will celebrate over 10 years of dedication and service to this church family. Stop by the Gathering Hall any time between 2 and 4pm to offer your thanks!

HELP NEEDED TO MOVE THE SYRIAN FAMILY: If you are available to help move this family into 805 Westmont Drive this coming Tuesday, December 19, contact Susie Reeder at (910) 484-3191 on Monday or email her at susier@snydermbc.com. We are looking forward to helping this family of 7 get settled into their new home!

UPDATED GIFT CATALOG IS HERE: These catalogs contain many gift ideas that benefit our local and international partnerships. You may purchase the gifts using cash, check or you may do it online. Pick up some of the special gift cards that must accompany your payment, so we know where to send the money.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - CAROLS & CANDLELIGHT: We will have two services - 3:30pm and 6pm. Both will be held in the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for children 3 & under.

CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING: This offering will conclude on Christmas Eve. We have set the goal at \$70,000. It's a big leap, but we know God can do it!

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES REPORT: This report will be presented in both services today.

WINTER WORSHIP TEAM RETREAT: Friday Night and Saturday, January 5 and 6. Right here at Snyder. This is a great time to refresh, to laugh, study scripture, worship together, and share some meals for all members of our tech, vocal, band, and worship choir groups who help lead our contemporary worship service AND for folks who'd like to see what it's all about. Interested in being a part of one of these teams, or know someone who should definitely consider it? Reach out to Giles at gilesb@snydermbc.com for more info. Cost is a nominal \$10 to help defray some of the expenses.

ONE SERVICE ONLY SUNDAYS: Note Location Info!

Sunday, Dec. 24, 10am (Sanctuary)

Sunday, Dec. 31, 10am (Fellowship Hall)

HOW TO GIVE TO SNYDER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Cash or Check

- by mail or dropping off to Finance Office
- Automated Bank Draft on the 5th or 20th of the month - contact Finance Office to acquire forms for draft set up

Online (computer, mobile phone, tablet)

- Go to www.snydermbc.com; select "Giving & Tithing | Online" from the menu; enter the information (if you are already in our database, you can login; otherwise you can continue as guest)

or

- download the "Church Life" app to your mobile phone (you must already have a username and password for AccessACS - see below - in order to use this app). There is a link on the app to give, and it will take you to AccessACS; follow the instructions

**"HEARTS UNITED IN LOVING GOD,
SHARING CHRIST, AND SERVING OTHERS."**