

*O Little Town of Bethlehem - Michael Torevell*

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**  
A LESSONS & CAROLS COMMUNION SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24, 2023  
614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511  
(919) 467-8700  
[www.carypresbyterian.org](http://www.carypresbyterian.org)

# ORDER OF WORSHIP – 8:00 P.M.

(\* Please stand as you are able.)

**Prelude**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
CPC Orchestra

arr. Dickson

**Introit**

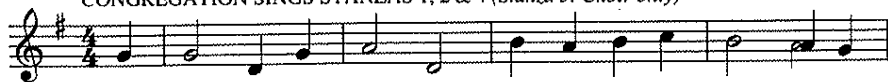
*On the Road to Bethlehem*

Bill Leslie

## Opening Sentences and Lighting of the Advent Candle

### \*Processional Carol *O Come All Ye Faithful*

CONGREGATION SINGS STANZAS 1, 2 & 4 (Stanza 3: Choir only)



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing.



come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.  
lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n.



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,  
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.  
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

## Prayer of Intercession

## Scripture - Genesis 22:15-18

*Gen. 22:15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, 18 and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."*

**Carol**

*Amid the Cold of Winter*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Rhoades

## Scripture - Isaiah 9:2-7

*Is. 9:2 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.*

*3 You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.*

*4 For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

*5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.*

*6 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.*

*7 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 forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

## **Scripture Luke 1:26-42**

*Luke 1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

*34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

*39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."*

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na-tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

## **Scripture Luke 2:1-16**

*Luke 2:1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

### **The Shepherds and the Angels**

*Luke 2:8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,*

*14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

*Luke 2:15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.*

**The Message**

*We Make Room*

Paul Lang

**Carol**

*Gloria*

McDonald

Chancel Choir

*(The offering will be received during this carol.)*

## Celebrating the Sacrament of Communion

### *Invitation to the Table*

Jesus was born into a world that told him right away, “There’s no room for you here.” Mary and Joseph were turned away from every door, so Jesus was born in a stable instead of a house. He was laid in a manger instead of a crib.

Friends, today you will not be turned away, because Jesus spent the rest of his life making room. He made room for tax collectors and children. He made room for five thousand people to sit down and eat together. He made room for Samaritan women, Jews and Gentiles. He made room for the sick, for the outcast, for the unclean.

Jesus was always pulling up a seat, saving space, making room for people, and he has made room for you.

So come to this Table.  
Come with your faith and your doubt.  
Come with your questions and your hopes.  
Come with your grief and your love.  
Just come, because there is room for you here.

This is Christ’s table. All are welcome.

### *Great Prayer of Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God,

We have been waiting a long time for this night—  
for the joy and the quiet of Christmas Eve,  
for the sound of the angel chorus,  
for the old familiar songs.

We have carried weary hearts through the last four weeks of Advent,  
longing for the peace and hope of this night,  
and now we’re finally here.



As we bow our heads, we offer you our most earnest and honest prayers, trusting that once again, you meet us where we are. We praise you joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*mp*  
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

*mp*  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san-na in the high - est

*mp*  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Tonight God, we say thank you for the things in our lives that spark joy:  
Thank you for the gift of family recipes and crowded tables.  
Thank you for a slower schedule, as many approach vacation.  
Thank you for infusing this season with practices of generosity.

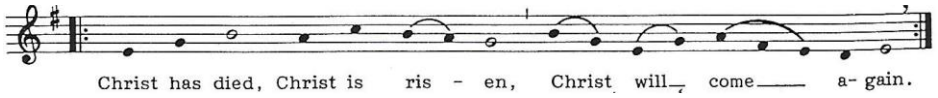
Thank you for the bells, and the songs, and the candles in the windows.  
Thank you for the children who squeal with joy,  
and the neighbors who drop off cookies.  
Thank you for every ounce of beauty that marks this season;

it has made it possible for us to join our voices with the angel chorus.

However, God, even in the face of remarkable joy, we still bring weary and worried hearts to you this night. Because we know that many have an empty seat at the table this year. We know that many will celebrate Christmas from a hospital room. We know that many have crunched numbers over and over again to see if they could afford a gift.

We know that for far too many, the holidays are a reminder that the world is still not as it should be. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:



Gracious God,  
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break  
and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
that we may be one with all who share this feast,  
united in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

In between our joy and our weariness, God, we ask that you would make room. Pour yourself into the cracks of our hearts. Bind yourself to our good days and our bad days. Carve out space for your love in the center of our beings so that no matter where we go we might trust the angels' song when they say, "Be not afraid," and, "Joy to the world!" Until then, until the day when joy overpowers weariness, until the day when there is room for all at every table, until your promised day, we will continue to pray as your son taught us to pray, saying:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

## **Distribution of the Elements**

## Prayer after Communion

**Spiritual**

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*  
Bill Leslie, Soloist

MacGimsey

**Candlelight Carol**

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

No. 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

**\*Blessing & Charge**

**\*Recessional Carol***Joy to the World*

No. 134

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

**\*Postlude***Go Tell It on the Mountain*

arr. Dickson

CPC Orchestra

*Poinsettias*  
*Christmas 2023*



*Cary Presbyterian Church*

## *Given in Loving Memory of:*

- David Batchelor, *by Ann Batchelor*
- George Burke, brother-in-law and Michael Burke, nephew,  
*by Helen Bednarcik*
- Ron Bednarcik, husband, *by Helen Bednarcik*
- Betty LaGrotteria, sister, *by Helen Bednarcik*
- Loved ones, *by Tom and Jeanne Bolick*
- George Michael Burke, husband, *by Penny Burke*
- Glen, Marilyn and Suzanne Campbell, *by John and Beth Campbell*
- Ramsay, Mary, and Meg Lawson, *by John and Beth Campbell*
- Steve and Lois Gremban, parents, *by Heidi Everett*
- Bill and Mozelle Williams, *by Gwen Fletcher*
- Loved ones, *by Margaret Garboski*
- Susan Garten, for a lifetime of love, *by Roger Garten*
- Dora and Curtis Gibbs and Louise and Wesley Stack,  
*by Henry and Onita Gibbs*
- Francis Giesbrecht, *by Peg Giesbrecht*
- Kathy Giesbrecht, *by Peg Giesbrecht*
- Gary Govert, husband, *by Ellen Govert*
- Kathy Almond, *by Becky Hambrick*
- Shirley Grace Hansen, *by John and Paula Hansen*
- Ed and Sally Frances Hargrave, *by their grandchildren*
- Harry and Mildred Hart, *by Betty Hart*
- Linda Yadack, mother, *by Rhonda Hinnant*
- Dr. Grover Miller, Cindy's mother, *by Cindy and Bill Leslie*
- Loved ones, *by Kathy Lindabery*
- Dr. John and Mabel McGill,  
*by Meredith McGill and Jerry Slaymaker*
- Doris and Addison Slaymaker, Sr.,  
*by Meredith McGill and Jerry Slaymaker*
- Carroll Slaymaker, *by Meredith McGill and Jerry Slaymaker*
- Marjorie McNeil, *by William McNeil*
- Jay Small, son, *by Linda Small Mowery*
- Walter and Etta Mears, parents, *by Linda Small Mowery*
- Our parents, *by Bill and Betty Newman*
- Paul W. Ogle, Sr. *by Sandy Ogle*

- Dot and Vince Oglesby, Boyce's parents, *by Boyce and Linda Oglesby*
- Herb Zerof, Linda's dad, *by Linda and Boyce Oglesby*
- Hardy Rothrock, *by his wife, Anne Rothrock*
- Lynn Johnston, sister, *by Sandra Saxton*
- Joseph and Susan Hobby, parents, *by Sandy Steadman*
- David Voss, *by Lynn Voss*
- Gracie and Bob Walker, *by Scott and Mary Walker*
- Margaret and Buck Taylor, *by Scott and Mary Walker*
- Vance and Alice Jenny, parents, *by Alice Williams*
- Dr. Sam and Joan Witherspoon, *by Sam and Teddy Witherspoon*
- Theodore and Delaney Ingraham, *by Sam and Teddy Witherspoon*
- Richard and Elaine Wood, *by Richard Wood*
- Bill and Jean Mundell, *by Richard Wood*

*Given in Honor of:*

- Our ministers, *by Sally Adams*
- Penny Burke, sister, *by Helen Bednarcik*
- Jen Pierce, niece, *by Helen Bednarcik*
- A Merry Christmas for family and friends, *By Michael and Laurel Callis*
- Randy, Wesley, Henry, and Ashley Gibbs, *by Henry and Onita Gibbs*
- Colby and Gracie Gibbs, *by Henry and Onita Gibbs*
- Bill Almond, *by Becky Hambrick*
- Mr. and Mrs. William Leslie, Jr, *by Bill and Cindy Leslie*
- Don and Laura Ann, children, *by Donna Long*
- The Ministries of CPC, *by Annah Michaux*
- CPC and its ministry, *by Nancy C. Smith*

*Following the 5:00 Christmas Eve service purchased poinsettias may be taken from the poinsettia tree in the Narthex or from the chancel steps.*

*Following the 8:00 Christmas Eve service purchased poinsettias may be taken from any chancel location or from the Narthex.*



**ASP**  
**Appalachia**  
SERVICE PROJECT

**Tonight's offering will support  
CPC's 2024 ASP Mission Trip,  
rebuilding homes and lives.  
This summer will be CPC's 33<sup>rd</sup> ASP mission trip.  
Checks should indicate "ASP" in the memo line.  
You may also contribute on the giving page  
of the CPC website.**

### **Worship Service Participants**

**Ministers:** Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lang, Paul Burgess

**Music Director:** Ed Yasick

**Choir:** Chancel Choir

**Soloist:** Bill Leslie

**CPC Orchestra:** Justin Dickson, Director

Kevin Atkins, Lily Atkins,

Alan Bancroft, Kirsten Nielsen

**Ushers:** Beth Cleveland, Su Johnson, Scott Walker, TBD

**Tech:** Chip Carew; **Slides:** Karen McMenamin

CCLI No.: 3015474

### **A Word about Tonight's Service**

*So that you and others around you  
may be fully present to this Service of Worship,  
please silence cell phones  
and refrain from photography.*

*Following the 8:00 service purchased poinsettias may be taken  
from any chancel location or from the Narthex.*