

December 18, 2011 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

Liturgical Color: Purple

GATHERING MUSIC

*Ding Dong! Merrily on High
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
I Wonder as I Wander*
Erin Knight, harp

arr. Kim Robertson
arr. Susan McDonald
arr. Kim Robertson

WELCOME

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

Noel Johnson

PRELUDE

He Is Born
Wesley Ringers

arr. Patricia Sanders Cota

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Myra Shaffer

Leader: God our Shepherd, you lead us like a flock: You are enthroned upon the cherubim: Shine forth; stir up your might; and come to save us!

People: Restore us; O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: Put your hand on your chosen one, the one you made strong for yourself. Give us life, and we will call on your name.

People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

(based on Psalm 80:1-2, 7-17-18)

***HYMN NO. 220**

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

***INVOCATION**

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Son of God, you took on human likeness and became obedient to death: **Return to reign over the earth you love. Mary's Child, you made your home with us, and God exalted you: Shine with the light no night can overcome. Crucified and risen Jesus, your name is above every name: Bring us to the tree of life for the healing of the nations. Savior of the nations, come. Then shall every knee bow in heaven and on earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God. Amen.**

A CHRISTMAS CREED FROM LATIN AMERICA

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel, which began in Bethlehem. I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was not room in the inn. I believe in the one whose life changed the course of history, for whom the kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud. I believe in the one whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Lord and Savior. I believe in peace, reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the Gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change - if with humility and with faith we kneel before the manger.

***GLORIA PATRI NO. 70**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent we light again the first three candles. We remember our longing for God to be with us, to give us peace, and to rejoice with us. Today, we light a fourth candle, the candle of Love, and our circle is complete. This candle is a symbol of God's love that was born anew in baby Jesus on Christmas Day. It is a love that has no ending, that lives on in young and old, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

All: Come, Lord Jesus. Shine on us, and the night will be bright as the day.

For once you lived in shadow, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light, enjoying all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. "Sleepers awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." (Ephesians 5:8-14, adapted)

All: Come, Lord Jesus. Shine on us, and the night will be bright as the day.

A Candle is Burning

Sandra Dean

James Murray

A musical score for the hymn "A Candle is Burning". The score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "A candle is burn-ing, a can-dle of love, a can-dle to point-us to hea-ven a-bove. A ba-by for Christ-mas, a won-der-ful birth, for Je-sus is bring-ing God's love to the earth." The score is divided into five systems, each starting with a measure number: 1, 3, 6, 9, and 13. The first system ends with a double bar line. The second system starts with a measure rest for three measures. The third system starts with a measure rest for six measures. The fourth system starts with a measure rest for nine measures. The fifth system starts with a measure rest for thirteen measures and ends with a double bar line.

A can - dle is burn - ing, a
can - dle of love, a can - dle to
point - us to hea - ven a - bove. A
ba - by for Christ - mas, a won - der - ful birth, for
Je - sus is bring - ing God's love to the earth.

SOLO

O Holy Night
Myra Shaffer, soprano, Erin Knight, harp

Adolphe Adam

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38 Page 69 (NT) in pew Bibles
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Love Came Down at Christmas Howard Helvey
Chancel Choir with Drew Brooks, horn and Erin Knight, harp

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

What Child Is This? Arr. Kim Robertson
Erin Knight, harp

*DOXOLOGY 238 (refrain only) *Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lisa Smith
As the children come to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message, they are invited to bring change to help in buying an animal for Heifer International. Following Children's Time, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.

*HYMN NO. 229

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Polish Carol

SERMON

"Unwanted Gift?" The Reverend Terry C. Martin

*HYMN NO. 245

The First Noel The First Noel

*BENEDICTION

Leader: The old story has been told, the carols have been sung.
People: **And we go back out into a world of birth and life and death.**
Leader: But now we can go with the song of hope ringing in our heart,
People: **now we go out ready to remind the world that new beginnings are possible.**
Leader: And as we go, we do not go alone.
People: **No, we walk together with all people whose hearts ring with the songs of hope.**
Leader: And may God, made known in a tiny baby in a stable, go with us through all the seasons of our lives. **Amen.**

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 204 *Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel*

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able*

Nursery Provided

Music Notes

Main Street Church welcomes instrumentalists, *Erin Knight*, harpist, and *Drew Brooks*, horn to today's service.

Christina Rossetti was an important nineteenth-century British poet, much of whose poetry displays a deeply religious and sometimes mystical tone. This text stresses the love present in God's gift at Christmas; the word "love" is used twelve times in three short verses. The last verse states that because of God's love shown to us, "love shall be our token." The text is set to music by Howard Helvey, contemporary composer/arranger and pianist and organist/choirmaster at historic Calvary Episcopal Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Love Came Down at Christmas

Howard Helvey

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign;
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the God-head, love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but where-with for sacred sign?
but where-with for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign;
love for plea and gift and sign.

Christmas Poinsettias

The Poinsettias today are given in loving memory of:

Dr. Casper Wiggins by his family.

Ernest C. McWatty by Phyllis McWatty and family.

Clint and Bill Faulkner and Grammy Rogers by Pam, Brooke, and Heather Faulkner.

M.L. Murph, Jr. by Carolyn H. Murph and family.

Ray Whatley by Verda E. Whatley.

John G. Kelly, Jr. by Jim and Kathy Kelly.

Harry R. Mays by Harriet Mays.

Our son, *Drake* and our parents, *Tom and Louise Anderson and Charlie and June Long* by Geddes and Susan Anderson.

Jack Z. Taylor by Lisa Taylor Getty.

Jack Z. Taylor by Zack and Helen Taylor.

Gayle and Gee Poe with love from their family.

Clarence and Louise Arnold and Anita Zeigler by their family who love and miss you.

Abner P. Stockman by Bob and Betsy Cureton.

Mary Elizabeth Stockman by Bob and Betsy Cureton.

Rachel Larkins by Tyler, Jennifer, and Peyton Larkins.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Tanner Cronic by Marilyn Barmore.

Mr. Edward F. Workman by Marilyn Barmore.

Elisabeth Scurry Charles by William K. Charles, Jr.

Our parents, *Shorty Callison and Marion and Lois Pinckney*, by Richard and Susan Pinckney.

Our parents, *Ted and Katherine Morton and Herndon and Etta Rosson* by Ted and Henrietta Morton.

Harvey Scott by John and Susan Thompson.

Dr. Jim Cheezem by Peggy Cheezem.

Billie Harley by Ben Harley.

Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Cooper by Mary Lynn, Jonathan, Christopher, Aurora, and Romulus Polk.

Reverend and Mrs. N. K. Polk, Sr. by Mary Lynn, Jonathan, Christopher, Aurora, and Romulus Polk.

Eleanor Rice by Pam, Brooke, and Heather Faulkner.

Stan and Ruth Miller by the Holbrook-Miller family.

Miriam Alewine by Fred Alewine.

Kenneth Young by Flo Young.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Bracknell by Mr. and Mrs. John L. Bracknell.

Loved Ones by Fred and Betty Calfee.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Y. Thomason, Sr. by Suzanne, Brent, Bayne, and Paige Rowland.

V. P. "Bud" Rowland, Jr. by Suzanne, Brent, Bayne, and Paige Rowland.

Ed and Mildred Moore by Anne M. Farquhar.

Gay Charles by Scurry, Gemma, Scurry, Jr., and Bennett.

Christmas Poinsettias

The Poinsettias today are given in loving honor of:

Sara Callison, our Prayer Warrior, by Brooke and Heather Faulkner.

Mike and Zella Williams by Gregg and Zella Moore and Rebekah.

Mildred Gallegly by Gregg and Zella Moore and Rebekah.

Jeremy, Cass, Selah, Moriah, Patrick, Lauren, and Wesley

by Jim and Kathy Kelly.

Millie C. Workman by Marilyn W. Barmore.

Terry Kelly by Jim and Kathy.

Our teacher, **Evelyn Irwin**, by the Trinity Class.

Our teacher, **Kit Adkins**, by the Trinity Class.

Our teacher, **Bob Helfrich**, by the Trinity Class.

Our teacher, **Hazel Bennett**, by Trinity Class.

Footsie Rice, Merry Christmas from Pam, Brooke, and Heather Faulkner.

Betty Scott by John and Susan Thompson.

Sara Callison by Richard, Susan, and Joy Pinckney.

Thomas C. Rambo on his birthday, December 30th by his mother, Evelyn Rambo.

Bill White by Santa Claus.

De and Jule Canaday by Jim and Kathy Kelly.

Bruce Higginbotham by Bill and Doris Tunstall and family.

A most wonderful wife and mom by Jimmy, Jeremy and Cass,

Patrick and Lauren, and Wesley.

Leon and Patty Thompson by John and Susan Thompson.

Mrs. Hazel Bennett, our loving Prayer Warrior, and

Bob Bennett by Joe and Libby Hartung.

Richard and Ginny Butler by Joe and Libby Hartung

Nancy Bagwell on her birthday, December 7 by her grand girls,

Megan, Anna Greer, and Adrienne Bagwell.

Madison, Olivia, William, Evan, and Karleigh by Suzanne Rowland.

The newsletter ladies, **Mott Troublefield, Ruby Minor, Evelyn Irwin,**

Virginia Wiggins, Gale Robinson, Peggy Cheezem, and Mary Metger,

for their faithful service by Emmie Burns.

Bill Charles by Scurry, Gemma, Scurry, Jr., and Bennett.

Joe and Vickie Chandler by the Tharpe boys.