



# First Presbyterian Church

New Bern, North Carolina

December 24, 2021

5:00 P.M.

## The One-Star Night, by Ann Weems

*Into an extremely dark and  
bitterly cold December  
came a one-star night.  
Those who had compassion  
found room and  
were filled with wonder  
at the brightness of the star above them.  
Those who saw fell to their knees in fear  
but listened to the angels' song  
and ran to see.*

*Those who heard the baby's cry  
believed,  
and fell to their knees,  
this time in worship.  
Those who followed the star  
already believed,  
and knew the time was now.  
They persisted in their journey  
through the dark and cold,  
bringing gifts to this One  
born to us all  
in a one-star night.*

Words of Welcome

The chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

*Two Carols*

traditional

Patrick and Katie Dougherty, trumpets

## Call to Worship

from Isaiah 11

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

**The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

**The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them. Let us worship God!**

Introit

*Away in a Manger*

Murray

## Advent Candle Lighting

On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ  
with all the faithful of every time and place:

**With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel,  
we await the promised salvation of the Lord,  
and look for the coming of the one  
who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth?**

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry:

**"Prepare the way of the Lord!**

**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."**

With the writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,  
we tell the good news of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem,  
who came to save us, and is coming again to rule in glory.

With Mary, the mother of Jesus,  
**we magnify the Lord, rejoicing in God our Savior,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for us,  
and holy is God's name.**

With choirs of angels, and with all the heavenly host, we sing:  
**"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth, peace, and goodwill to all."**

*The lighting of the four candles of Advent and the Christ Candle*

The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**Alleluia!**

**Anthem**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Spiritual

**Children's Sermon**

**Carol**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Wade

*(children are invited to ring their bells during the refrain)*

**O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye,  
to Bethlehem! Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!**



**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus,  
to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!**



**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!**



**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Anthem**

*Sing Noel: A Christmas Fantasy*

French carol/Althouse

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1-20

**Carol**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

French carol

*(Children are invited to ring their bells during the refrain)*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**



**Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?**



**Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**



**Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Meditation**

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

**Litany for Christmas**

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**

To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**

**Carol**

*What Child is This*

Greensleeves

*(Children are invited to ring their bells during the refrain)*

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?**



**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.**



**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.**



**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

## **Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

## **Candle Lighting**

**\*Carol**

*Silent Night, Holy night!*

**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!**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Carol**

*Joy to the World*

*(children are invited to ring their bells during the refrain)*

**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 us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,**



**Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found,**



**Far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**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.**

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Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Director of Music: Pat Kerr Rowlett

Pianist: Vance Harper Jones

Trumpets: Patrick and Katie Dougherty

Audio/Visual: Mark Dail

**Tonight's offering (which can be placed in the baskets located near the ushers)  
is being divided equally between Merci Clinic ([mercyclinic.org](http://mercyclinic.org))  
and RCS ([rcsnewbern.com](http://rcsnewbern.com)). Thank you for your generosity!**

Many thanks to our worship leaders, choirs, and Music Ministry staff  
for the gift of their talents to our worship of God:

Covenant Choir ~ Kinderchoir

Daybreak Choir ~ Sanctuary Choir

“The shepherds returned,  
glorifying and praising God  
for all they had heard and seen,  
as it had been told them.”

Luke 2:20

**Highlights from the Month Ahead at First Presbyterian Church:**

**For more information, please visit our website: [www.firstpresnb.org](http://www.firstpresnb.org)**

Sunday Worship: 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 – 10:40

SALT (Serving and Learning Together) for 3rd-5th graders

JOY (Just older youth) youth group for middle and high schoolers

Women’s Bible Study - Monday Evenings and Thursday mornings

Children’s choirs – Monday (grades 2-5) and Tuesday (Grades K & 1) afternoons

Adult choirs – Thursday

Life of Prayer – Wednesdays at noon

Contemplative Worship – Wednesday Evenings

Grief Support Group - Tuesday, January 11

Fellowship Dinner - Wednesday, January 12

Men’s Beer and Theology - Sunday, January 23

Knitting ~ House Churches ~ Presbyterian Women ~ Backpack Blessings ~ Meal

Preparation for Religious Community Services ~ And More!

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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