

## *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Glory to the Newborn King!*

Please silence all electronic devices  
\*Invites the congregation to stand

**Prelude** J. Noel Lance

**Solo** J. Kevin Gray/Anne Hager  
*Once in Royal David's City* Henry John Gauntlett

**Words of Gathering** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**\*Call to Praise** Ken Benton/David Allen

ONE: God, You announced Your good news through the angels  
and the world was changed forever!

**ALL: We follow those shepherds to greet the baby in the  
manger, who changes our lives day by day!**

**\*Carol** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
ADESTE FIDELES

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, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

**READER: After the angelic announcement, the  
shepherds made their way to Bethlehem.**

**\*Carol** *The First Noel*  
THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:*  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!

Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

**READER: We follow those shepherds to greet the baby in  
the manger, who changes our lives day by day!**

**\*Carol**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*  
MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join  
the triumph of the skies; with the  
angelic host proclaim, “Christ is  
born in Bethlehem.” Hark! the  
herald angels sing, “Glory to the  
newborn King!”



Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold Him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus,  
our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the  
newborn King!”

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of  
Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing  
in His wings, mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may  
die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

All children are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary at this time.

*Peace on Earth and Mercy Mild,  
God and Sinners Reconciled!*

**Telling the Christmas Story** Rev. Allison Benfield  
Gospel of Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping  
watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood  
before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and  
they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is

the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a  
child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And  
suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly  
host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest  
heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 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.” So  
they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child  
lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what  
had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were  
amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all  
these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds  
returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and  
seen, as it had been told them.

ONE: Through these written words of scripture, we listen  
for the Living Word of God.

**ALL: Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.**

**\*Carol** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring  
love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

**Offertory Prayer** Bobbie Hinson/Sally Young

**We Bring Our Gifts to the Christ Child**

**Offertory** J. Noel Lance

**\*Presentation of Our Gifts to God** ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
Christ the Lord.

*Joyful All Ye Nations Rise,  
Join the Triumph of the Skies*

**Solo** J. Kevin Gray  
*O Holy Night* Adolph Adams

**Message** Dr. Foust  
*Good News for Everybody*

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

*St. John's observes the communion tradition of an OPEN TABLE. This is the Lord's Table, and all are welcome here. No person is excluded from Christ's broad invitation for any reason. "Come to me," Jesus said.*

**Serving of the Bread and Cup**

*With Angelic Host Proclaim,  
"Christ Is Born in Bethlehem!"*

**A Moment of Mindfulness** J. Noel Lance/Chancel Choir  
*In the Bleak Midwinter* Arr. By Albin C. Whitworth

**\*Carol of Proclamation** *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. Sleep, little child, so meek and mild. Sleep Holy One.

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.

**Merry Christmas!**

**THE ST. JOHN'S PULPIT**

Sunday, December 26, 2021 | Christmastide  
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
Message Title: *Where a Parent's Treasure Is Found*  
Scripture: Luke 2:39-52

**GUEST CONNECTION**

If you would like information on how you can become a part of St. John's, please fill out one of the "For Our Guests" cards found on the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate. Our church staff will be happy to reach out to you and answer any questions you may have. Visit our website to find out more information regarding the many ministry opportunities available in the life of St. John's.

**MOBILE GIVING AT ST. JOHN'S**

You can text your contributions and offerings to St. John's! Text SJGIVE (not case sensitive) and the amount you would like to give (i.e. 10=\$10) to 73256 to give using your mobile device. When you receive a message, click on the link provided and follow the instructions. You will then receive a receipt to confirm your gift was received.

**MINISTERS**

Every participant in God's Servant Church

**EQUIPPING MINISTERS**

**Minister for Spiritual Growth**  
Rev. Allison Benfield

**Minister for Worship & Music**  
J. Kevin Gray

**Minister for Congregational Care**  
Rev. Lee Gray

**Senior Minister**  
Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**SUPPORT STAFF**

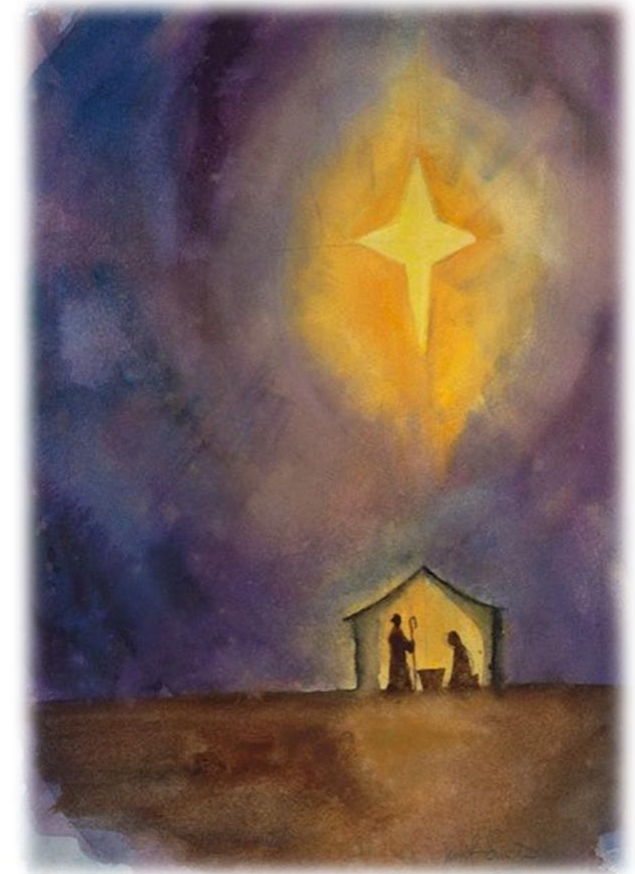
**Church Administrator**  
Jacquelyn McAbee

**Custodial Staff**  
Chris Mullis & Debora Thon

**Organist**  
J. Noel Lance

**Weekday School Director**  
Lydia Olmstead

*The Worship of God*



*Candles, Carols, and Communion*

*Friday, December 24, 2021  
Christmas Eve Service of Worship  
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM*

**ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**