

North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church



804 E Street, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

336-667-1288

www.nwpres.org

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A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

Welcome and Announcements

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

The Griffin Family

One: We have watched; we have waited
... in hope.
... for peace.
... in joy!
... with love.
Now our redemption draws near!

One: Hear the Word of the Lord from Luke 2:10-11:
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.

One: Glory to God in the highest!

All: Alleluia! Amen!

***Hymn (#119)**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession (#123, v. 3)**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
Beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!*

*** Assurance of Pardon**

One: Isaiah foretold the good news that is now proclaimed to us:

The Lord has comforted the people and redeemed Jerusalem!
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***Congregational Response (#134, v. 3)**

Joy to the World

*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 cruse is found.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Many: Thanks be to God.)

Meditation

Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith (#128)**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: . . . And so we raise our voices with saints and angels
and all creation in joyful praise to you singing:

Sung (#552)

**Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

One: . . . And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Sung (#553)

**Many: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

One: . . . Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
by him, with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise.

Sung (#554)

All: Amen, amen, amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

*An usher will invite you to come forward to receive the sacrament, coming to the table from the outside aisles.
After receiving communion, you may return to your pew by the center aisle.*

Communion Hymn (#133)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Prayer of Gratitude

WE DEPART TO SERVE

The Candle Lighting Service

Charge and Benediction

Candle Lighting Hymn (#122)

Silent Night, Holy Night!

***Please rise, in body or spirit.**

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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.



Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a

128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a - cat-tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



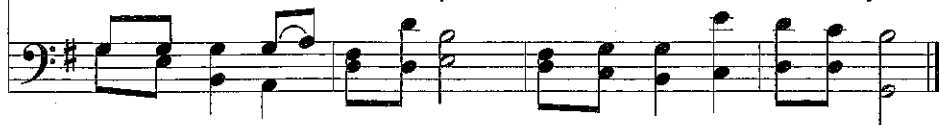
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.



Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, ti-dings bring-ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor-row:



Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
 Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!



The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6-20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means "He lies in a cradle" or "In manger lying."

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133

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

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Silent Night, Holy Night! 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 - - dant 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.



GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht
 nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!
 Todo duerme en derredor,
 entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
 bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
 brilla la estrella de paz,
 brilla la estrella de paz.*

KOREAN

1 *고요한밤 거룩한밤
 어둠에 문헌밤
 주의부모 앞아서
 감사기도 드릴때
 아기잘도 잔다
 아기잘도 잔다*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

Poinsettias in the sanctuary are given in loving memory of:

*Brenda Hall-Cashion by Linda & Gerald Lankford
Frances and Claude Hall by Linda & Gerald Lankford
Carolina Finley by Harry & Jean Page
Dr. Bob C. Thompson by The Thompson Family
Bob C. Thompson by Robin & Barbara Thompson England,
Zeb Wright & Candyce Collard, & Cole Wright*

*Sam Johnson by Tamara Johnson
Grant and Jessie Rhodes by Barbara & Ed Gregory
Richard and Brattie Gregory by Barbara & Ed Gregory
Bob Thompson by Barbara & Ed Gregory
Rev. Bill Pruitt and Mary Felts Pruitt by Polly E. Pruitt*

*Mildred Brooks by Margie Edgerton
Ann Miller by Margie Edgerton
Opha Manus by Margie Edgerton
Bob Thomipson by Margie Edgerton
John W. Hubbard by The Czerkawski Family*

*Ted and Ann Czerkawski by The Czerkawski Family
John Hubbard Jr. by The Czerkawski Family
Stacey Edmund by The Czerkawski Family
Penny Musson by Ellen Lipscomb
Blair and Florence Gwyn by Carolyn Bell*

*Our Grandfathers, John Hubbard and John Hughes by Sydney & Meredith Hubbard
Perry S. & Bobbie Snipes by Perry & Nancy Snipes
Philip Keener by Olive, Gus, & Charlie Keener
Joyce Davis by Mary Keener
Stephen Powell by Betty Powell*

Poinsettias in the sanctuary are given in loving memory of (cont.):

Bob Powell by Betty Powell
Carol Childers by The Franklin Family
Jo Green by The Franklin Family
Penny Musson by The Franklin Family
Bob Thompson by The Franklin Family
H.M. (Skip) Parker by Mike & Chris Atwood

Poinsettias in the sanctuary are given in honor of:

Our Children & Grandchildren by Harry and Jean Page
Our NWPC & WPC Family by The Thompson Family
Betty Thompson by Robin & Barbara Thompson England,
Zeb Wright & Candyce Collard, & Cole Wright
The NWPC Kingdom Kids and Youth by Polly E. Pruitt
Becky Hubbard by The Czerkawski Family

Our Grandsons by Richard & Mamie Collier
The Seekers Class by Ellen Lipscomb
Our Grandmothers, Becky Hubbard & Donna Hughes by Sydney & Meredith Hubbard

Poinsettias in the sanctuary are given by:

Jan and Steve Jackson