Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2024



Wondrous God,
we have heard rumors of your coming,
and so we gather in the darkness, praying for light.
Send prophets to lift our heads,
messengers to guide our feet,
and companions to share the way,
until the whole rejoices at the news
that love has come.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024 7:00 PM

PRELUDE "A Pair of Carols" Wilbur Held

Shepherds & Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

"Jesu Bambino" Pietro A Yon

Rebecca Hettrick, Violin

***INVITATION TO WORSHIP** Natalie Daugherty

We gather –
people of faith – and no faith,
people of hope – and no hope,
people of peace – and no peace.

We gather with the longing
to be made whole again,
if just for this time, here
and now.

We gather with a prayer,
however vague and tenuous,
that in spite of the absence
of angels and shepherds,
we might still witness
the birth of love.

We gather
as ready as we'll ever be
for this story to unfold.

***HYMN 133** "O Come All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

***AN ANCIENT PROMISE AND** Jackie Wintle & David LaMotte
THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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.

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.

Friends, the night is far gone; the day is at hand.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

***HYMN 129** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
ES IST EIN' ROS'

Verse 1 – Choir
Verses 2-3 – Congregation

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

3 This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy One,
We have dared to come,
not because we are ready to greet you,
but because our need is so great
and your hour approaches.
Strip away our defenses
and bathe us in your mercy
until we yield our lives in joy.

Silent prayer

***ASSURANCE OF WELCOME AND FORGIVENESS**

…in the name of Jesus, the resurrection and the life, let us declare:

Our stories are known; our sins are forgiven;
our work has just begun.

ANTHEM The Holly and the Ivy arr. Richard Shephard

The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown.
The rising of the sun And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom As white as lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To be our sweet Savior.
The rising of the sun And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a berry As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To do us sinners good.

The holly bears a bark As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ On Christmas Day in the morn.
The rising of the sun And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.

THE BABE IS BORN Luke 2:1-7 Patrick Hardy

***HYMN 114** "Away in a Manger"
CRADLE SONG

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

THE SHEPHERDS' STORY Luke 2:8-20 Alisa White

ANTHEM Ding Dong Merrily on High Arr. Michael Pavone

Ding, dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding, dong! verily the sky is riven with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, I'o, by priest and people sungen
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your Matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rhyme your Eve-time song, ye singers
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

***HYMN 147** "The First Nowell"

THE FIRST NOWELL

Verse 3 – Women, Refrain – All
Verse 4 – Men, Refrain – All

1 The first Nowell 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:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2 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)

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. (Refrain)

REFLECTION Margaret LaMotte Torrence

***HYMN 145** "What Child Is This"
GREENSLEEVES

1 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!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 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.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

THE TABLE PRAYER *(responses below)*

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.

Hymn 113: Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days—
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

SHARING A TASTE OF HOME

The bread is gluten-free; the juice is not fermented, with the hope that all may freely participate.

When you come forward for communion, you will be offered a piece of bread. You may take the bread and dip it in a common cup, or If you would prefer to have a personal serving of juice, separate glass cups will be available. Just indicate to your server which option you would prefer.

GIVING THANKS

Faithful God,
We thank you for the life we receive at your table,
and the gift of beloved companions with whom to share this meal.
Now, send us forth as midwives of your grace,
as a church that dares to hope with the full measure of its heart—
for we pray in the name of Jesus, who came on a night like this.
Amen.

***THE PROCLAMATION OF LIGHT** John 1:1-5

***HYMN** "Silent 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,
heav'nly 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**

POSTLUDE **"**O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam
Rebecca Hettrick, Violin

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF
Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Transitional Pastor
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Andrew Tripp, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts; Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Elder of the Day: Sharon Lytle

We are glad that you have found your way here on this holy night.
If there is any way that this community might be of service to you, we hope that you will let us know.
Come, anytime.

Cover Image by Lauren Wright Pittman, sanctifiedart.org
The version of the Lord's Prayer used in tonight's service was written by Parker Palmer.

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

WarrenWilsonPC WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch @WarrenWilsonPC

At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole – and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring, and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!