

Behold, **I** bring
you **g**ood **t**id-
ings of great
joy, which shall
be to **a**ll **p**eople. ✠

For unto you is
born this day
in the city of **D**avid.

A **S**aviour, which
is **C**HRIST the

LORD.



SERVICE OF COMMUNION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2014

Eleven o'clock in the evening

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Brian Price ~ Taylor Bostic
Alex Franck ~ Robbie Newcomb

VOLUNTARY

Silent Night, Holy Night

Chancel Bell Choir
Charles Todd, Director

Michael Helman

From Heaven High to Earth I Come

Organ

Helmut Walcha

Lo, How a Rose

Chancel Bell Choir, Flute, and Organ
Hannah Hammel, Flute

Cathy Moglebust

Noël Breton (from Huit Chants de Bretagne)

Organ

Jean Langlais

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Chancel Bell Choir and Organ

Albert Zabel

Noel: Le Roy ces Cieux vient de naître

Flute and Organ

Jean-François Dandrieu

INTROIT *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Plainsong

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him,
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be;
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!

DECLARATION OF THE GOSPEL

Dr. Michael Clingenpeel

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *O Come All Ye Faithful*

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!

Refrain:

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

See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace Thee with awe and love;
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?
Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Adeste Fideles

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle, for in Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like Him, answering His call and following in His footsteps. Come to us, Lord Jesus; be born in us this night - in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of Your life be kindled in us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

After the lighting of the Christ Candle, the ministers will exchange the traditional "passing of the peace" with the blessing and response as printed below. In like manner, the ministers will then pass the peace of Christ to the deacons. The deacons, in turn, will extend the greeting to the first person in each pew. The exchange passes from one to another until all in the congregation have participated.

*THE PEACE

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn
On stanza 3, high voices are invited to join in singing the descant found at hymn 32.

*BENEDICTION Dr. Michael Clingenpeel

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Congregation please remain in place until the choir has processed to the Narthex.

VOLUNTARY *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729 J.S. Bach

* Congregation standing if able

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS are given to the glory of God by Mr. & Mrs. Louis W. Moelchert, Jr. to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS decorating the exterior doors and sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Michael and Christine Kellett for their devotion to the children and youth ministry at River Road Church by Hilton and Margaret Almond.

*INVOCATION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Daniel Bagby

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

WELCOME

ANTHEM *Torches*

Jean Joubert

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!
Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby,
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling,
While we sing you our Roro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry,
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven,
Now and evermore. Amen.

Lo, He lives, the King of heaven.
Now and ever, evermore. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 (p.555)

Rev. Michael Kellett

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

*CHRISTMAS GLORIA *(all sing)*

Gloria

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

Refrain: 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 heavenly song?
Refrain

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

*GOSPEL LESSON

Dr. Daniel Bagby

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

Reading of Luke 2:1-20 (p. 832-33)

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord.

Congregation: Praise be to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM *Sir Christèmas*

William Mathias

Nowell, nowell.	Which causeth you to sing: nowell, nowell.
Who is there that singeth so, nowell, nowell?	Christ is now born of a pure maid;
I am here, Sir Christèmas.	In an ox-stall He is laid,
Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!	Wherefore sing we at a brayde: nowell, nowell.
Welcome to all, both more and less!	Buvez bien, buvez bien par toute la compagnie.
Come near, come near, nowell, nowell.	Make good cheer and be right merry,
Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, tidings I you bring:	And sing with us now joyfully:
A maid hath borne a child full young,	Nowell, nowell, nowell.

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Dr. Michael Clingenpeel

“The Poetry of Christmas”

*HYMN OF PREPARATION 28 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

In dulci jubilo

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Dr. Michael Clingenpeel

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ You came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, hoping for little and expecting less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope so that we may receive the fullness of Your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GIVING OF THANKS

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

SANCTUS Hymn 568 *(all are invited to sing)*

John Weaver

BLESSING AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

“This is my body, which is for you.”

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD

The Lamb

John Tavener

Little Lamb who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Gave thee life & bid thee feed. By the stream & o'er the mead; Gave thee clothing of delight, Softest clothing woolly bright; Gave thee such a tender voice, Making all the vales rejoice! Little Lamb who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?	Little Lamb I'll tell thee, Little Lamb I'll tell thee! He is called by thy name, For He calls Himself a Lamb: He is meek & He is mild, He became a little child: I a child & thou a lamb, We are called by His name. Little Lamb, God bless thee. Little Lamb, God bless thee.
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– William Blake

BLESSING AND GIVING OF THE CUP

“This cup is God’s New Covenant, sealed with my blood.”

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION OF THE CUP

Come to Bethlehem

Peter Warlock

Come to Bethlehem and see the newborn King;
Come and lay your heart before Him while you sing.
Lo, the God of earth and heaven, Lord of all,
Lies within the manger of an ox’s stall.
Born of God the Father in the bliss above,
Born a baby in a stable for our love.
Lord of all creation ere our race began
Loves to be and call Himself “The Son of Man.”
Holy Mary, Virgin Mother, gave Him birth;
See her meekly kneel before Him on the earth.
Let us kneel with her and lovingly adore
Christ her Son, our God and King for evermore. – Dom Gregory Murray

Erin Stuhlman, soprano

Before the Marvel of this Night

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night Adoring, fold your wings and bow, Then tear the sky apart with light And with your news the world endow. Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, That fear and death and sorrow cease: Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!	Awake the sleeping world with song, This is the day the Lord has made. Assemble here, celestial throng, In royal splendor come arrayed. Give earth a glimpse of heav’nly bliss, A teasing taste of what they miss: Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!
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The love that we have always known,
Our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown,
Now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love,
That rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love!

MEDITATIVE HYMN 60 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

Stille Nacht

(Please remain seated as you sing.)