

First Church at Worship

VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo

Johann Bach

*GREETING

Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth peace and good will toward men.

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Glory be to God on High.

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.

*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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven 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 given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain:*

*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

In him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God; Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,

and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

THE ANTHEM

Dan Forest

See Amid the Winter Snow

Katherine Brooks, Will Brown, Patrick Carter, Melinda Hyman, Janet Lawrence,

THE SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high

sweetly singing o'er the plains,

and the mountains in reply

echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria,

in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria,

in excelsis Deo!

* THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Come to Bethlehem and see

Christ whose birth the angels sing,

come, adore on bended knee,

Christ the Lord, the newborn King

Refrain:

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria,

in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria,

in excelsis Deo!

THE MEDITATION

Rev. Kyle D. Randle

THE RESPONSE

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.

Come meet Christ in this meal.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,

we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.

We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.

In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,

those we know and those known only to you,

for the sake of the one who came to live among us,

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,

not through our own work,

but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,

rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks
to you, Almighty God,
Creator of heaven and earth.

A thousand years is but a day in your sight;
you are steadfast and sure.
You come with might to protect us.
Like a shepherd you feed us and
hold us gently in your arms
to give us comfort in times of trial.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join
their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you,
and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Whose coming was foretold
by your prophet John in the wilderness

He prepared us for Jesus
who came to give us life.

By the baptism of his suffering, death,
and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over
he took the cup, gave thanks to you,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts
in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

All are invited to the Lord's Table. Please follow the direction of the ushers.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

O Holy Night
Mark and Cheryl Rollins, soloists

Adolph Adam

Beside Thy Manger Here I Stand
Es ist ein' Ros

Albert Thate
Daryl Bichel

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Eternal God,
we give thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
You have saved us by your great mercy
and poured out your Spirit upon us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SHARING THE LIGHT

John 1:1-14

*Please take a candle from the usher as you return to your seat.
We ask you to wait until we begin singing before lighting your candle.
Candles may be placed in the basket in the Narthex
as you leave following the Blessing.*

*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,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

*BLESSING

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo

Alec Wyton

First United Methodist Church

1001 Fifth Avenue, Conway, South Carolina 29526

843-488-4251 / www.fumcconway.org



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

5:00 p.m.

Out of a broken and sinful world, all people are welcomed into the body of Jesus Christ at First Church. Our highest priority is the health, safety and well-being of all persons, with a particular concern for the most vulnerable. It is our collective responsibility as Christians to be good neighbors in our community. As we join together in worshipping God to experience the transforming love of our Savior, let us honor God and love one another.

- Masks must be worn inside the buildings
- Family members are invited to sit together on pews
- Sit in every other pew
- No more than four persons per pew except for families with appropriate spacing
- Follow the instructions of the ushers/health team
- Cough & sneeze into your sleeve
- No hugging or handshakes. Find alternative ways of greeting
- Avoid gathering in the Sanctuary, Narthex or near the doors of the church before and following Worship.
- Thank you for joining us in loving one another.

We are please to have Jessica Eaton as our guest organist/pianist this evening. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC, where she also served as Assistant to the Director of the School of Music. Currently, Jessica works as a substitute accompanist for area churches. She and her husband reside in Conway. We thank Jessica for sharing her talent with us!