
CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

801 S Hayne Street | Monroe, NC 28112

*Central
Presents:*

*The
True
Gift*



*A
Dramatic
& Musical
presentation telling the
True Meaning of Christmas*

Script written by Robert Hinson

*Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.*

Every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit. | UMH - United Methodist Hymnal | Congregational responses in **bold**.*

PRELUDE

Christmas Rhapsody

Roger Wilson

WELCOME

Rev. Sigrid Mottram

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

O God from whom every gift derives, we gather to worship You this day. You are an awesome God, greater than our comprehension or our imagination. You are beyond any word we could ever use to describe You. And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast love. We have come to You in thanksgiving and praise, to know that You are God and to place our lives anew into Your perspective. Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word. Instill in us, again, Your hope in place of our despair, Your peace where our hatred threatens, Your joy amidst our depression, Your love overwhelming our apathy. May Your Holy Spirit surround and indwell this congregation now, and forevermore. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

✠ **OPENING HYMN**

There's a Song in the Air

UMH 249

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The Dilworth Family

Isaiah 35:10: "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy. May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Lanny Lancaster

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.

OFFERING

✠ **DOXOLOGY**

Advent Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to Thee O Israel.**

The True Gift

Written by Robert Hinson

Musical Offering

The Jesus Gift

Chancel Choir & Celebration Singers

Scene 1

A classroom of Angels discussing the very special time of year.

Musical Offering

Christmas Peace Canon

Celebration Singers

The Wisemen enter. One wiseman is discussing the gifts with his son.

Musical Offering

They Followed His Star
Janet Lancaster, soloist

Chancel Choir

The Wisemen enter. One wiseman is discussing the gifts with his son.

Scene 2

Back in the Angel Classroom, the Angels discuss the Shepherds.

The Shepherds Enter. A Mother Shepherd and her daughter are discussing their gifts for Christ Child.

Musical Offering

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Chancel Choir

Back in the Angel Classroom, the Angels discuss gifts for the Christ Child.

Musical Offering

Little Drummer Boy

Chancel Choir

Scene 3

The early 1970s - a young boy and girl meet each other right after school as they are leaving the school building.

Musical Offering

The Gift Goes On

Youth Choir

Scene 4

Back in the Angel Classroom, the Angels talk about the Greatest Gift.

Musical Offering

What Can I Give Him

JC Hightower

Gathering at the Manger

Hymn

Away in a Manger

UMH 217

Stanza 1 – Celebration Singers only | Stanzas 2 & 3 all join

Christmas Meditation

Rev. Lancaster

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gloria

Jason D. Payne



Cast

Erica Kirby, *director*
Julie Miles, *technical assistance*
Cat Evans, *technical assistance*

Teacher	Libby Gordon
Sasha Angel	Norah Shupe
Stacy Angel	Raelynn Helms
Lulu Angel	Luna Martinez
Remy Angel	Ava Plunkett
Addie Angel	Addie Baucom
Other Angels	Anna Gray, Aubrey Helms and Jay Plunkett
Two Kings	Kyrin Kirby and Tyler Sikes
Father King	Jon Hightower
Son of the King	JC Hightower
Mother Shepherd	Hannah Helms
Shepherd Girl	Millie Baucom
Boy	Nathan Clements
Girl	Hannah Shupe
Mary	Tera Millward
Joseph	Henry Dilworth

Music

Central Chancel Choir & Central Youth Choir
Jamie Bryson, *director*

Celebration Singers
Barbara Pfau, *director*
Kristi Shupe, *accompanist*

Pastors

Rev. Lanny Lancaster, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Sigrid Mottram, *Assistant Pastor*