



A Service of
Lessons
&
Carols

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 18. 2022

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

I Wonder as I Wander
Cathy Seib Snell, soloist

Appalachian Carol
arr. Schweitzer

INTROIT

Judah's Land

Appalachian Carol
arr. David Johnson

*To thee with joy I sing, sweet child that heaven did bring,
now Judah's land shall ring with thy praises.
Gentle stranger, in that manger, in Judah's land we find thee, infant Savior.*

*Now twilight quietly comes: the baby lies asleep;
play softly, flute and drums, to his praises.
Gentle stranger, in that manger, in Judah's land we find thee, blessed Savior.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

The Tisdale-Jennings Family

Leader: The hope which comes in Christ, God's dream of a peaceful world, the Spirit within us who brings joy. These lights shine already. Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of love.

The candle of love is lit.

Scripture tells us "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear." God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God's love is there. We light this candle in love.

People: On this day, we remember God is love.

***HYMN NO. 140**

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

THE BIDDING PRAYER

John Weicher

Beloved in Christ, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, and especially for peace on earth and goodwill among all people. Let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the lonely and the unloved; all who have none to care for them; all those whose lives have been torn asunder by injustice, terror and war; the aged and little children; and all who know not the great loving-kindness of the Lord Jesus.

*Those who are able, please stand.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this day, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous, guard the strong. We make our prayer in the words Christ himself has taught us: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

*Genesis 3:8-12,17-19, 22-24
Adam and Eve are driven from the garden.*

Griffin Momsen-Hudson

ANTHEM

The Apple Tree

David Ashley White

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest a while:
under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Amy Heit

Leader: Lord of grace and truth, your Son, our Savior, was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
We have sinned:

People: **Forgive and heal us.**

Leader: The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:

People: **Forgive and heal us.**

Leader: The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.
We have sinned:

People: **Forgive and heal us. Have mercy on us according to your love.**

Leader: May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins,
time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

RESPONSE (sung by choir)*Judah's Land*Appalachian Carol
arr. David Johnson

*I greet thee, Prince of Peace: from sin give thy release!
Nor shall my tongue e'er cease from thy praises.
Gentle stranger, in that manger, in Judah's land we find thee, infant Savior.
Thy crib can scarce contain thy love, our precious gain;
May hymns new heights attain with thy praises.
Gentle stranger, in that manger, in Judah's land we find thee, infant Savior.*

SECOND LESSON*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

Noah Dillon

*The great light will shine upon all.***ANTHEM***The Morning Star*

Virgil Thomson

*How splendid shines the morning star, God's gracious light from darkness far,
the root of Jesse blessed.
Thou David's son of Jacob's stem, my bridegroom king and wond'rous Lamb,
Thou hast my heart possessed.
Sweetly, friendly, O, thou handsome precious ransom,
full of graces, set and kept in heavenly places.*

THIRD LESSON*Luke 1:26-35, 38*

Lenore Champion

*The angel Gabriel comes to Mary.***SOLO***Mary Had a Baby**Spiritual*

Lesley Curtis, soprano

arr. Jacqueline Hairston

*Mary had a baby, my Lord. Where was he born? O, my Lord.
Mary had a baby, born in a manger, my Lord.
Mary called him Jesus, he was called King Jesus.
Mary had a baby, my Lord.*

FOURTH LESSON*Luke 2:1,3-7*

Esther Hethcox

*Jesus is born in Bethlehem.****HYMN NO. 145***What Child Is This?*

Greensleeves

FIFTH LESSON*Luke 2:8-20*

Cris Rivera

*The shepherds hurry to see the Christ Child.***ANTHEM***Wexford Carol*Trad. Irish, 12th c.
arr. Elaine Hagenberg

*Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well, and bear in mind,
what our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;
in Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.
Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs, and feeding sheep;
to whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Prepare and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem. Be not afraid.
For there you'll find this happy morn a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,
and as God's angels had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger he was laid, and by his side the virgin maid
attending on the Lord of Life who came to earth to end all strife.*

*With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;
in Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.*

SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-18

Mindy Douglas

***HYMN NO. 130**

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Ermuntre Dich

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of grace, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and Savior.
Prepare our hearts for the coming of the Word made flesh,
keep us steadfast in hope, and faithful in service.
Grant that we, like her, may rejoice in your salvation,
and in all things, embrace your will;
we ask this through him whose coming is certain
and whose day draws near,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

(The *Christmas Joy Offering* is received today.
Please use the specially marked enclosed envelope.)

Offertory Music

Sing with Joy

Johann Crüger

Sing with joy! My heart rejoices.

As we hear, far and near, all the angel voices.

Listen! To the joyful chorus.

All the world, sing today: Christus natus hodie. (Christ is born today.)

Hark! A voice calls from the manger

soft and sweet, does entreat: flee from woe and danger.

Listen! Angel voices singing.

Happy day, as we say, Christus natus hodie.

Come, then, hasten on this happy morn.

Here let all, great and small sing with joy, a child is born.

Listen! Glory of the angels.

Hail the star, from afar, Christus natus hodie.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

All: All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us.
With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story
that all may believe and rejoice in your saving grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

***SOLEMN BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Son of God once came to us. May his coming bring us the light of his holiness.

People: Amen.

Leader: God sent heavenly angels to shepherds to herald the great joy of our Savior's birth.
May God fill us with joy and make us share the Good News of the Gospel.

People: Amen.

Leader: When the Word became Flesh, earth was joined to heaven.
May God give us peace and good will and brighten our heart with gratitude.

People: Amen.

Leader: May the Creator bless you and keep you.
May the Beloved Compassion face you, and have mercy upon you;
May the Eternal Spirit's countenance be turned to you and give you peace;
May the Three in One bless you now and evermore.

People: Amen.

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach



Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code. First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, and ability to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the ***Friendship Pad***, pass it along the pew, and **then return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

Special thanks to the musicians who helped with today's worship: ***Gordon Campbell***, piano and organ; ***Allison Willet***, violin; ***Charles Wines***, flute and recorder; and ***Sarah Lodico Wines***, cello.

The candle of love on the Advent wreath is being lit today by ***Alfred and Nora Tubbs Tisdale***, ***Leonora Tisdale***, ***Langston and Robeson Jennings***.

The ***poinsettias*** are given to the glory of God and are a gift to the congregation from ***Arthur Clark***.

Special thanks to ***Alice Raney*** and ***Vernon Cooper*** for decorating the sanctuary for the season.

Childcare: A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. There is no "A Time with the Children" this morning. All children are welcome in the nursery and playroom for all of worship. Extra staff will be serving.

The **sanctuary table** upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by **George Danser** and is given to the church by him and his wife, **Jean Cary**. George has drawn design features from our communion table and used oak removed from the sanctuary during our renovation and from a tree in their backyard that Jean saw get hit by lightning some years ago.

Advent paraments: In 2012, First Presbyterian Church commissioned internationally known fiber-artist Laurie Wohl to create paraments to be hung in the sanctuary during Lent and Advent. We are grateful that the bequest of Anne 'St. Clair' Williams made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

Restroom locations: To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the second floor of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle by the door or return it to an usher. Receivers are sanitized after each use.

Today's texts were taken from *Book of Common Prayer* and *Celtic Prayers*.

Today's bulletin cover was retrieved on December 15, 2022 from the following website, <https://www.calvarypgh.org/coming-up/2020/11/29/f2rcksuiipm1gj41dbv5wx1mnjoetc>, and modified for use as today's cover.

These Days devotional books for January-March 2023 have arrived. Pick up a free copy (regular or large print) from the table in the foyer while supplies last.

~ CONCERNS ~

Paul Cornsweet
Rebekah Jakel
Parker Morton

Susan Cyr
Chris James
Franzi Rokoske

Kerry Holbrook
George Kafula
Carol Wills

Lee House
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley**

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: **Arthur Clark**

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: **Philip Herndon**

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Jim Wolfe**

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Liz Block, cousin of Jane and Bill Brown

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Pam Hanson, mother of Laura Hanson

Karen Shelton, mother-in-law of Dawn Carsey Shelton

John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece

Bob, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Diane Lesman, friend of FPC

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Welcome our new Pastoral Associate



Esther Rose Hethcox

Office: 919-682-5511 x 220

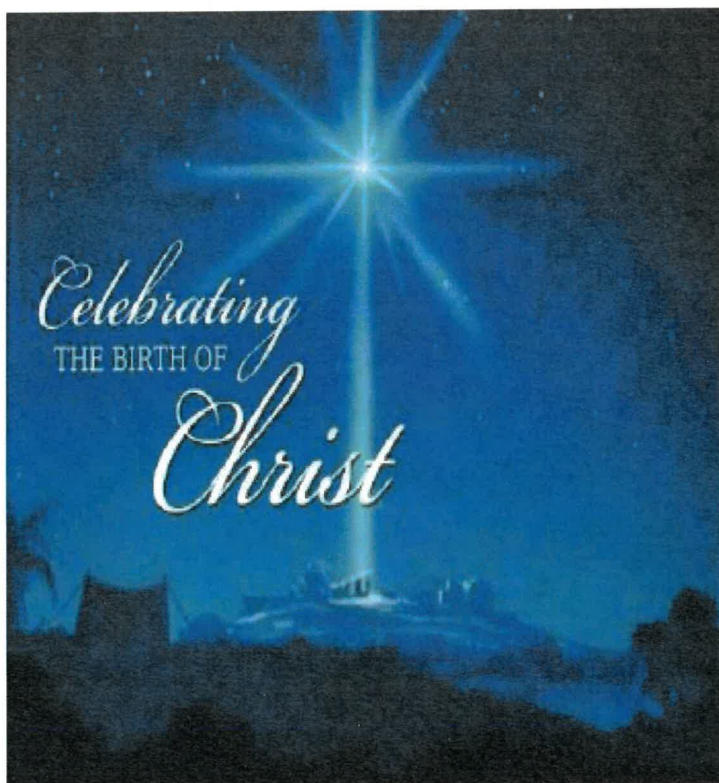
Mobile: 540-316-1548

e.hethcox@firstpres-durham.org

Esther Hethcox (she/her) graduated from Duke Divinity School this past May and is a certified candidate for ordination under the Presbytery of New Hope. Esther has been *thoroughly* enjoying all that graduate school kept from her—reading (for fun!), hiking with friends, exploring restaurants in Durham, taking day trips to zoos and aquariums and spending time with her two cats, Peri and Poppy.

A fun fact about Esther: she raised champion show pigeons for 10+ years, earning the nickname “Pigeon Girl” in undergrad. Feel free to call Esther your Pigeon Pastor—she will wear that title with joy and honor!

Esther is grateful to be a part of the wonderful community of FPC and is *excited* for all God holds in store for this new relationship.



December 24 – Christmas Eve

Communion & Candle Lighting Service - 5:00 p.m.

Childcare provided.

An offering will be received to support
FPC's Refugee families and the Walk-in Ministry.

December 25 - Christmas Day

No Faith Formation Classes

Worship with Communion - 11:00 a.m.

The *Hunger for Change Offering* will be received.
No childcare available. Children welcome in worship.

January 1- Epiphany

First Sunday after Christmas

New Year's Day

Lectionary Class will meet at 9:45 a.m.

Other Faith Formation classes are not meeting.

Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Childcare provided.

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



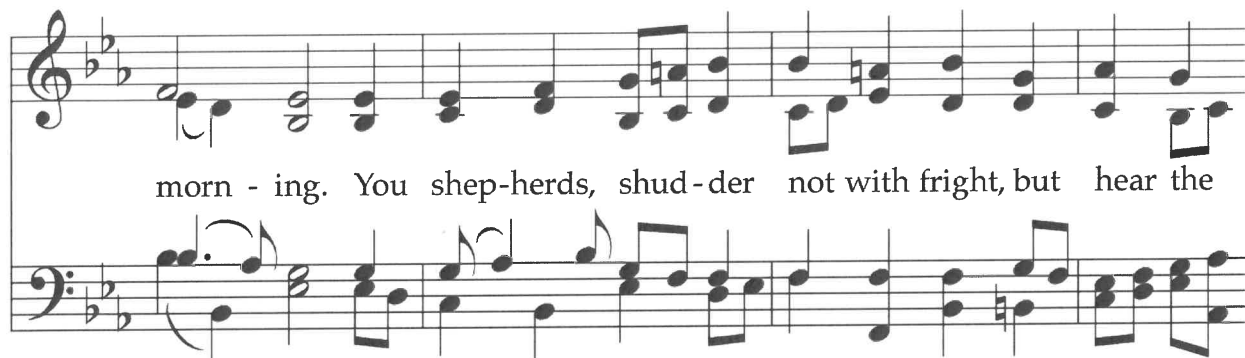
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



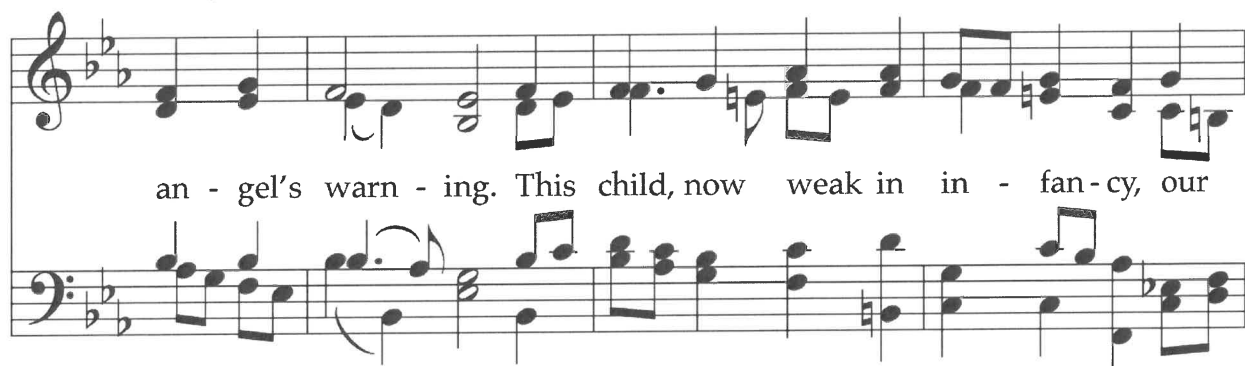
130 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light



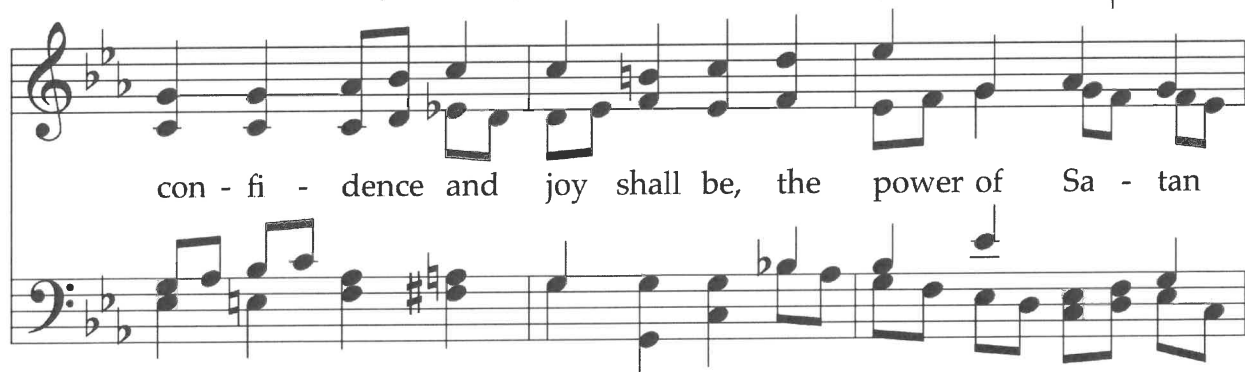
Break forth, O beau-teous heaven-ly light, and ush-er in the



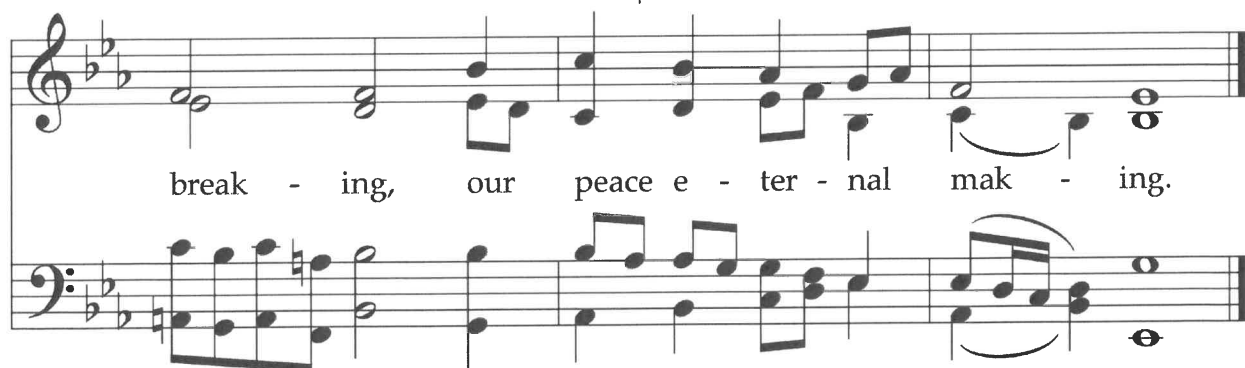
morn-ing. You shep-herds, shud-der not with fright, but hear the



an-gel's warn-ing. This child, now weak in in-fan-cy, our

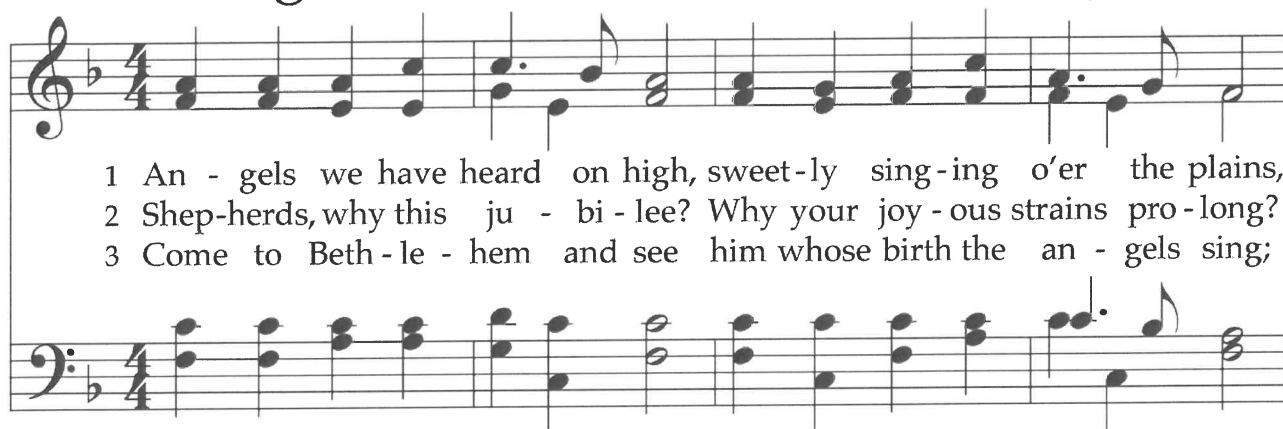


con-fi-dence and joy shall be, the power of Sa-tan

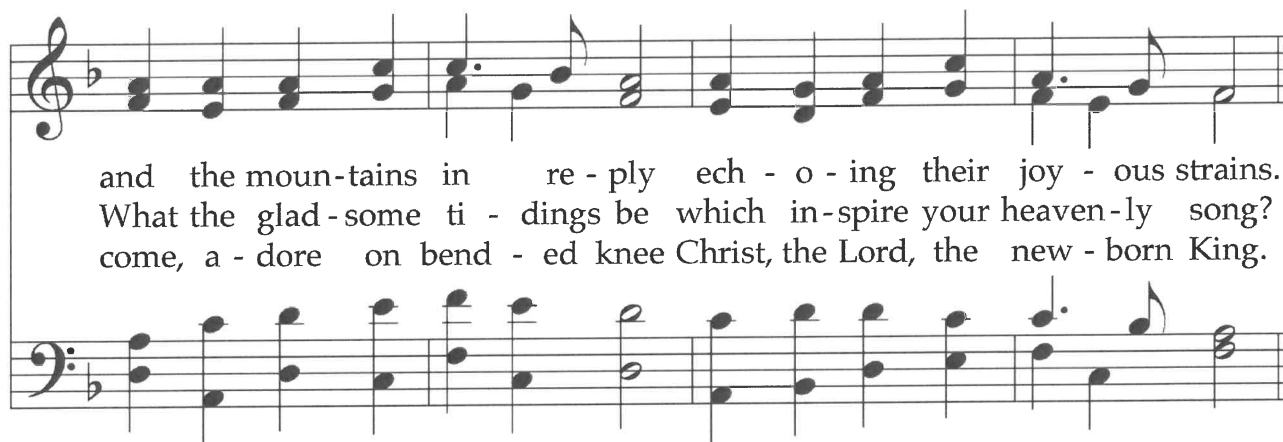


break-ing, our peace e-ter-nal mak-ing.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain





Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today After Worship Young Adults lunch out at Cugino Forno</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group Christmas Party</p> <p>8:00 PM Meaning in the Middle MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	<p>Monday, December 19</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 20</p> <p>6:15 PM Book Study: HOPE (via Zoom)</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 21</p> <p>11:00 AM Book Study: HOPE (via Zoom)</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Thursday, December 22</p> <p>12:00 PM College-Age Lunch (meet in church foyer)</p>	<p>Friday, December 23</p>	<p>Saturday, December 24</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Christmas Eve Worship</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Communion and Candlelight Service</p> </div>	<p>Sunday, December 25</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Christmas Day Nativity of Jesus</i></p> </div> <p>No Faith Formation Classes</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship Service No Youth Group</p>

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Vernon Cooper, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Omar Guess, Sr., Weekend Sexton
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Amy Heit, Parish Associate
Esther Hethcox, Pastoral Associate
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

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