

# ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP

Sunday, December 27, 2020

St. John's Baptist Church | Charlotte, NC

Christmas I

## Greeting & Prayer of Submission

Rev. Lee Gray

## Carol

*Good Christians Friends, Rejoice*  
IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Listen now to what we say: News. News. Jesus Christ was born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

## Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Luke 2:22-40

Rev. Nate Dove

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

This is the written word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

## Carol

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

NOEL NOUVELET

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here! Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Refrain:

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest, journey forth to Bethlehem, find the lambkin blest." [Refrain]

## Church at Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Allison Benfield

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Offertory

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Arr. Jason Krug

Handbells

## Message

*Cradling Salvation*

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

## Carol

*He is Born*

IL EST NE

Refrain:

He is born, the Holy Child; play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the Holy Child; sing we all of the Savior mild.

Through long ages of the past, prophets have foretold His coming; through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last! [Refrain]

## Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

## Postlude

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

J. Noel Lance