



December 19, 2018

6:30 p.m.

GATHERING MUSIC

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

The First Noel

Katharine Kilcrease, piano

We Three Kings

Isabelle San Miguel, piano

GATHERING WORDS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Keren Barr, flute

CJ Drymon, cello

Kim Padgett & Laura Pfister, violin

WELCOME AND INVITATION

Rev. Laura H. Jernigan

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, looking for hope, peace, love, comfort, and joy.

We come, looking for the Light.

We come, bringing our hurts, our worries, and our fears.

We come, looking for the Light.

We come seeking relief from pain, and seeking solace for our loss.

We come, looking for the Light.

We come, trusting in Christ, who comes as the Light of the World.

We come, looking for the Light.

Let us be still and know Emmanuel, God with us.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:1-2; 12:2

SILENT MEDITATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Matthew 1:21-23

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Nicole Freitag, soprano

‡ indicates all who are able may stand. Responses in **bold print** are read aloud.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 142

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN No. 89

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

stanzas 1-3

Nancy Jones, soloist

Soloist will sing each verse; the congregation is invited to join in the refrain.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN No. 76

Do Not Be Afraid

ISAIAH 43

Emily Floyd & Noah Milton, soloists

Soloist will sing each verse; the congregation is invited to join in the refrain.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:68-69, 78-79

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER FOR GOD'S LIGHT

In the beginning and in the midst of chaos and darkness, God spoke.

Let there be light.

As the people walked in darkness, God promised to shine light and joy.

Let there be light.

God's Word became flesh, and the Word was the Light of all people.

Let there be light.

We long to be assured that the light of Christ is with us, even now, in the shadows of suffering and death.

Let there be light.

God of all comfort, we pray for all those who grieve and mourn.

Let there be light.

We pray for all who are sick, and those who wait beneath life's crushing load.

Let there be light.

We pray for all who are lonely, angry, struggling, and afraid.

Let there be light.

Give to all of us your comfort, help, release, and healing.

Let there be light.

Give to all of us, we pray, your forgiveness, hope, and inner rebirth.

Let there be light.

Open us, we pray, to gratitude, understanding, compassion, and love.

Let there be light.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES *All who wish may come forward
to light a candle in memory of someone, as an act of prayer for light in the world,
or as a sign of receiving God's comfort and peace.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Ave Maria

Francesca Mariano, soprano

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Instrumental Ensemble

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John, Chapter 4, selected verses

REFLECTION

Rev. Laura H. Jernigan

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

God of comfort and joy, we give you thanks and praise. We have seen your light, and we rejoice in your salvation. We offer again our hearts and lives to you. Rekindle in us the flames of your love, that we may reflect the Light of Christ. Send us your Holy Spirit, that we may know your presence with us, now and forevermore. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN No. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Once in Royal David's City

HYMN 140, V. 4

Claire Turney, soprano

We give thanks for our worship leaders this evening:

Musicians

Judi Caldwell, piano
Keren Barr, flute
CJ Drymon, cello
Katherine Kilcrease, piano
Kim Padgett, violin
Laura Pfister, violin
Isabelle San Miguel, piano

Soloists

Emily Floyd
Nicole Freitag
Nancy Jones
Francesca Mariano
Noah Milton
Claire Turney

Liturgists and Readers

Rev. Laura H. Jernigan
Rev. John M. Semmes
Rev. Alex Thomas
Carol Payne
Bob Smithers
Lindsey Thames

We invite you to join us in worship at Shallowford Church on Christmas Eve:

- 4:00 p.m. - A Children's Christmas Celebration in the Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. - A Service of Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary