



Service for the Lord's Day

December 23, 2018

11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

GATHERING WORDS

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

INTROIT

The Hands That First Held Mary's Child
Chapel Choir

—D. Forrest

CALL TO WORSHIP

Before the majesty of God, we gather to worship; in quiet expectation, we come to hear God's promises.

This is where we belong; here we are warmly greeted. Surely God will feed our deepest hunger.

Before the mercy of God, we lift our hearts; in humble imagination, we welcome a new visitation.

This day God is present with us; we feel it. Surely God is preparing for us a time of joy.

Let us worship God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Courtesy of Pendergrast families

1 While we are wait - ing, come;

while we are wait - ing, come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

ADVENT PRAYER

✠HYMN No. 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

✠CALL TO CONFESSION

‡PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image.

Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

‡ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

. . . in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

‡RESPONSE

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PARISH LIFE

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

Mary, Did You Know?
Kayla Smith, soprano

—Lowry & Greene

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children will remain in worship following the Children's Message.
Ages Kindergarten and under are welcome in the Nursery.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

John M. Semmes

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

‡HYMN No. 118

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

CHRISTMAS

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

‡AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Declaration of Faith*

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin.

He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child.

In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY*There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth*
Chancel Choir

-F. Mendelssohn

‡ DOXOLOGY*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

HYMN 108, VERSE 6

6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,
to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un -
wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,
ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

‡ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**WE ARE SENT TO SERVE****‡ HYMN** No. 145*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

‡ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**‡ RESPONSE***O Little Town of Bethlehem*
Chancel Choir

ST. LOUIS

CLOSING VOLUNTARY*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

-R. Hobby

This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Please sign the Friendship Pad and include your street address, telephone number, and email address.

Our liturgist this morning is Catherine Foster, Associate Pastor for Mission and Discipleship.

Reflecting our church retreat *Generations* theme, our Advent Wreath lighters are all families with 3 or more generations of worshippers at Shallowford.

The cradle cross at the baptismal font celebrates the birth of **Emily Louise Fairchild**, the daughter of Ginny and David Fairchild and Katy's baby sister.

Child Care is available during both services in the nursery. From the atrium, enter the nursery through the double doors to the right of the Sanctuary. **Worship clipboards for children** are available in the Atrium.

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Large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers are available; please see an usher for assistance.

December 23 – December 30

Sunday, December 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:45 a.m. First Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 4:30 p.m. Chapel Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 24, 2018 Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Celebration
- 7:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day

- Happy Christmas!
- Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26

- Church Office Closed
- 6:30 p.m. NAMI Connection

Thursday, December 27

- Church Office Closed

Friday, December 28

- Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 30 1st Sunday after Christmas

- 10:00 a.m. Worship

The church office will be closed from
December 25 through January 6, 2019.

Gifts postmarked by December 31, 2018
will be included in the 2018 giving year.

WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 30

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

PREACHING

Isaac Toney

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:41-52

MUSIC

Barbara & Richard Houze



Rev. John M. Semmes
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