



CHRISTMAS EVE

A Thrill of Hope

SHALLOWFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | ADVENT 2023

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 24, 2023 | 11:00 a.m. | Christmas Eve

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

OPENING VOLUNTARY

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Jinhee Kim, piano

arr. Dennis Alexander

GATHERING WORDS & GREETING

Rev. Anna George Traynham

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Maggie & Annie

On Christmas Eve, we sing with the angels:

Glory to God! Christ is born.

We watch with the shepherds:

A star is rising! Christ is born.

We celebrate with Mary and Joseph:

The newborn king is here! Christ is born.

A thrill of hope ignites our hearts.

Joy to the world! Christ is born.

ADVENT PRAYER

*HYMN No. 147

The First Nowell

(verses 1, 2, 3 & 6)

THE FIRST NOWELL

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Landon Dillard

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,

in Christ you were born a humble child:

Love-made-flesh, God-with-us.

Be with us this day, O Lord,

and forgive us when we fail to follow

in your way of humility, love, and peace.

* Those who are able, please stand.

Welcome to Shallowford!

**Free us to see your light
reflecting in the faces of friends and family,
neighbors and strangers,
enemies and friends.**

Silence for personal prayers of confession.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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

***SUNG RESPONSE HYMN NO. 113 (verse 1)**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!**

ANTHEM

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Mark Patterson

Combined Children's Choirs

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.

Hear our grateful praises to the Child so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel.

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest;

Journey to the manger, find the Child so blest."

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel.

Come Sing, sing we all Noel,

Sing we now of Christmas, sing Noel.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Bradley Kibler

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Based on Matthew 2 and Luke 2

Children will be invited forward during the story,
according to the costume they chose.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM & JESUS IS BORN

Mary - Maddie

HYMN NO. 115 (verse 1)

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,

the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

SHEPHERDS & ANGELS WORSHIP HIM

Angel - Avery
Shepherd - Benji

WISE MEN TRAVEL FROM AFAR

*HYMN NO. 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain (all verses)

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

(Refrain)

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

(Refrain)

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

(Refrain)

HOMILY

Rev. Anna George Traynham

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Carol of the Bells

Lucia Turner, piano

Leontovich/arr. Faber & Faber

The First Nowell

Benji Isaac, piano

arr. Melody Bober

*DOXOLOGY Hymn No. 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

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. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE

***HYMN** No. 134
Joy to the World

JOY TO THE WORLD

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY
The Coventry Carol

arr. Mary McDonald

** ** *

You are welcome to remain seated for the closing voluntary
or exit to the Atrium for fellowship.

This Week @ Shallowford December 24 - 31, 2023

Sunday, December 24

11:00 a.m. Worship with Children's Nativity (Sanctuary & Livestream)

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary & Livestream)

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26 - Saturday, December 30

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 31

11:00 a.m. Worship as One (Sanctuary & Livestream)

Monday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed

Welcome to Shallowford! During your visit we hope you feel the presence of the Spirit and the love of Christ as we worship God together. Please leave your contact information in the blue Friendship Pad so we can send you a note of welcome.

Childcare is available in the nursery. **Worship clipboards** for children are available in the Atrium.

Weekly announcements are a great way to stay involved at Shallowford!
To receive weekly communication, email info@shallowford.org,
visit shallowford.org, or call the church office (404-321-1844).

Churchwide

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Tonight (7pm)

Come back this evening and join us for a meaningful Candlelight Service in the sanctuary. The nursery will welcome littles under three years of age. You may watch the service via livestream at shallowford.org.

Worship As One – Sunday, December 31 (11am)

The Shallowford community is invited to worship as one body on New Year's Eve. Individual Sunday School classes and 8:30 am worship will resume January 7th.

Connection Cards – Coming January 2024

In the new year, we are excited to introduce Connection Cards to the pews! These cards will capture visitor information AND will give members a *NEW* space to share prayer requests or any life updates.

SPAM Email Reminder – Emails from Shallowford staff will always come from an official address ending in @shallowford.org, and staff will never email to ask for financial information or to purchase gift cards. Please report those emails as phishing through your email server.

Church Office Closed – December 25 - 30

If there is a pastoral emergency and you would like to speak with a pastor on call, please call the church office (404-321-1844) and follow the prompts for the designated pastor on call line. You may call this number anytime of anyday.

Adults

Year-End Giving – Received by December 31, 2023

Out of gratitude for the true gift we have received in Christ, we welcome year-end contributions. Gifts received by **12/31** will be included in the 2023 calendar year. Please contact Magalie Nemorin (mnemorin@shallowford.org) with questions.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)

APNC Listening Session – Sunday, January 7 (6:15pm)

Share your hopes and dreams for Shallowford's next Associate Pastor for Mission & Youth as we begin the discernment process. *Location: Heritage Hall; Contact: Bradley Kibler*

Committee Update – The APNC elected member Lizzie Jury as chair, participated in team building exercises, created a set of internal norms, and will conduct a second listening session in January. The committee operates with strict confidentiality and is setting up a process to provide frequent updates to the congregation as well as receive feedback. We ask for your prayers during the process of discerning whom God has called to be the next associate pastor at Shallowford. *Contact: Lizzie Jury (lizziejury@gmail.com)*

Children & Youth

2024 Confirmation Class – Calling all 8th Graders

This spring we will begin our confirmation journey together, where we learn about theology and the bible, grow together as a class, and ultimately seek membership in the church. Please reach out to Rev. Bradley Kibler for more details.

Mission

Alternative Giving – shallowford.org/alternative-giving

There is still time to make a gift to a loved one in the form of a dedicated donation! Visit the online store to support God's people this Advent. *Contact: Debbie Adams (4ioh@comcast.net)*

Worship Staff

Rev. Anna George Traynham

Senior Pastor

atraynham@shallowford.org

Rev. E. Bradley Kibler

Associate Pastor for Congregational Vitality

bkibler@shallowford.org

Rev. Landon A. Dillard

Associate Pastor for Children & Programs

ldillard@shallowford.org

William Fred Scott

Interim Director of Music

fscott@shallowford.org

Jinhee Kim

Organist & Associate Director of Music

jkim@shallowford.org

Anne Thomas

Director of Children's Choirs &

Interim Director of Chapel Choir

athomas@shallowford.org

Maggie Johnson

Director of Youth

mjohnson@shallowford.org

How to Give

You are welcome to make a gift using your cell phone. Text the word “**Shallowford365**” to **73256** followed by the amount you wish to give. You may also give through the Realm Connect App or by visiting the website at **shallowford.org/give**.



2375 Shallowford Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30345
info@shallowford.org | shallowford.org

The First Nowell



1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -



shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop



their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.



Refrain



Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,



"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / nē*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

A musical score for the phrase "born is the King of Israel." The score is written on two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics "born is the King of Israel." are written below the treble staff. The word "King" is written above the treble staff, and "Is - ra - el." is written below the treble staff. The music consists of six measures. The first three measures are for the words "born is the", and the last three measures are for "King of Is - ra - el." The melody is simple and homophonic, with a final cadence at the end of the phrase.

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and
frankincense.

Refrain

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

134

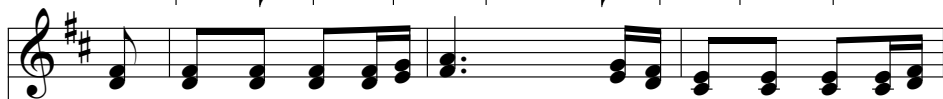
Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.