



# Good News

# A Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

2:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 9:00 PM 11:00 PM

## THE GATHERING AND QUIET PREPARATION

\*THE CAROL NO. 234, *O Come, All Ye Faithful* - verses 1-3, 6

## \*THE CALL TO CHRISTMAS EVE

Leader: The waiting ends. The story begins.

**People: In the fullness of time, heaven bent low to touch earth.**

Leader: While emperors commanded and the powerful made their plans,

**People: God was writing a different story: quiet, small, and unstoppable.**

Leader: In a borrowed stable, on a bed of straw,

**People: Hope took its first breath.**

Leader: The Word became flesh in a baby's cry piercing the night.

**People: And we have seen it: grace incarnate, truth we can hold.**

## \*THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

\*Carol No. 240 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;

With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

## A CHRISTMAS GREETING

### Christmas Prayer

God of perfect timing, you chose a census to bring Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. You chose a stable when every door was closed. You chose shepherds working the night shift to be the first to know. Tonight we celebrate how you work through ordinary moments—through unexpected journeys and closed doors—to accomplish the most beautiful purposes. Open our eyes to see where you're already at work in our own lives. Light our way tonight and always. Amen.

### Anthem

2:00	<i>Baby, What You Goin' to Be?</i> Genesis and IXOYC Choirs	arr. Greg Gilpin
7:00	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i> Chancel Choir	arr. Taylor Davis
9:00	<i>Christ is Born</i> Alumni Choir	Mark Miller
11:00	<i>O Magnum Mysterium</i> Cantus Ensemble	Morten Lauridsen

## THE FIRST LESSON: JOURNEYING TO BETHLEHEM

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-5

Carol No. 230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

## THE SECOND LESSON: A SAVIOR IS BORN

Scripture Reading Luke 2:6-7

Carol No. 217 *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## THE THIRD LESSON: THE ANGEL'S PROCLAMATION

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-14

\*Carol No. 238 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

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!

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

## THE FOURTH LESSON: THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

Scripture Reading Luke 2:15-20

### THE OFFERTORY

2:00	<i>Sussex Carol</i>	arr. Earlene Rentz
7:00	<i>The Shepherd's Farewell</i>	Hector Berlioz
9:00	<i>Carols Around</i>	Carl Nygard
11:00	<i>The Shepherd's Farewell</i>	Hector Berlioz

## THE FIFTH LESSON: TREASURING THE MESSAGE

Scripture Reading Luke 2: 1-14

### THE MESSAGE

“Good News”

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*As our ushers lead you forward, you are invited to take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup, taking the juice and bread together. All bread is gluten free. Let an usher know if you are unable to come forward and you will be served in your pew.*

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

\*THE CAROL NO. 239                      *Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright,  
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE CAROL NO. 246                      *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

\*THE POSTLUDE                      *In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729*                      J. S. Bach

We wish to thank our guest organist, Clayton Farmer, for sharing his gifts with us this evening. His Prelude during The Gathering is a selection of the following pieces:

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>The Holly and the Ivy</i>                         | Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)       |
| <i>Toccata on "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"</i>    | ohn Rutter (b. 1945)              |
| <i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>                  | Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)       |
| <i>In Dulci Jubilo</i>                               | Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)          |
| <i>Sinfonia from The Christmas Oratorio, Part II</i> | Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) |

Thank you for being part of worship this Christmas Eve!  
We look forward to worshipping with you in 2026!

## WELCOME TO THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Welcome to Birmingham First! We are delighted to have you join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. Whether you're visiting for the first time or have been with us many times before, you are warmly welcomed into this church family. We hope this time of worship brings you inspiration and peace, and we want you to know that you are always welcome here.

## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

From time to time our pastors are called upon to help individuals or respond to other special ministry opportunities not provided for through other means. Today's offering is for the Pastors' Discretionary Fund unless otherwise designated on your envelope as an offering for the Operating Budget, Home Fires, Missions or other ministry areas.

## CONNECTING FAITH & COMMUNITY

Our ministry serves and supports people of all ages through discipleship, fellowship, and impactful mission work rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Whether you're looking for upcoming events, mission opportunities, or ways to connect and serve, visit our website at [www.gatheredhereforgood.org](http://www.gatheredhereforgood.org) to learn more. Together, we're making a difference in our community and beyond!

## BEGIN 2026 ROOTED IN FAITH

As we step into 2026, join us in January for worship that invites reflection, renewal, and deeper faith. Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr. will explore how Christ is revealed to the world, how faith is shared, and how God's light shines in times of uncertainty. We are also pleased to welcome guest speaker Jack Krasula on January 11, sharing a message on forgiveness and hope. Whether you join us in-person at 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m., or online, begin the new year rooted in faith and open to the transforming presence of Christ.

## EMPTY BOWLS FOR HUNGER

On Wednesday, February 18, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., we invite you to Empty Bowls, a community meal benefiting local food pantries and soup kitchens. This event features a soup and cereal supper with soups generously donated by local restaurants. You can choose to dine in or pick up your meal. Tickets will be available soon. Save the date and join us for this meaningful event!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

Mark your calendars for June 15-19, 2026, and get ready for the best week of summer! Discover the nature of God as you step through the mist into Rainforest Falls! Don't miss this exciting and unforgettable journey! Registration opens in February.

Visit [www.gatheredhereforgood.org/cfm](http://www.gatheredhereforgood.org/cfm) for details.

## PARTICIPANTS

### 2:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue Jr., Senior Pastor  
Rev. Sarah Alexander, Pastor of Congregational Care

### 7:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue Jr., Senior Pastor  
Rev. Rachael Dunlap, Associate Pastor

### 9:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue Jr., Senior Pastor  
Gabriel Ervin, Liturgist

### 11:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue Jr., Senior Pastor  
Rev. Zack Dunlap, Associate Pastor

### Musicians

Casey Proch, Director of Music  
Clayton Farmer, guest organist  
Doris Hall, Organist  
Darryl Roenicke, piano  
Kelly Roenicke, violin

Wendy Baker, Robyn Campagne, DeAnn Forbes,  
Rosa Warner Jones, Robert Jones, Giselle Ulep, Sharon Ulep, soloists

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### Our Purpose

To gather, nurture and equip disciples of Jesus Christ  
for ministry and mission in the world.

### Our Core Values

Welcome All	Put Love Into Action
Honor God Through Excellence	Embrace Bold Vision
Encourage Lifelong Spiritual Growth	Support One Another

### Our Welcoming Statement

Embracing the example of Jesus, we welcome you here with hearts  
that know no boundaries of age, race, gender, ethnicity,  
sexual orientation, ability, or economic circumstance.



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[www.gatheredhereforgood.org](http://www.gatheredhereforgood.org) | 248-646-1200