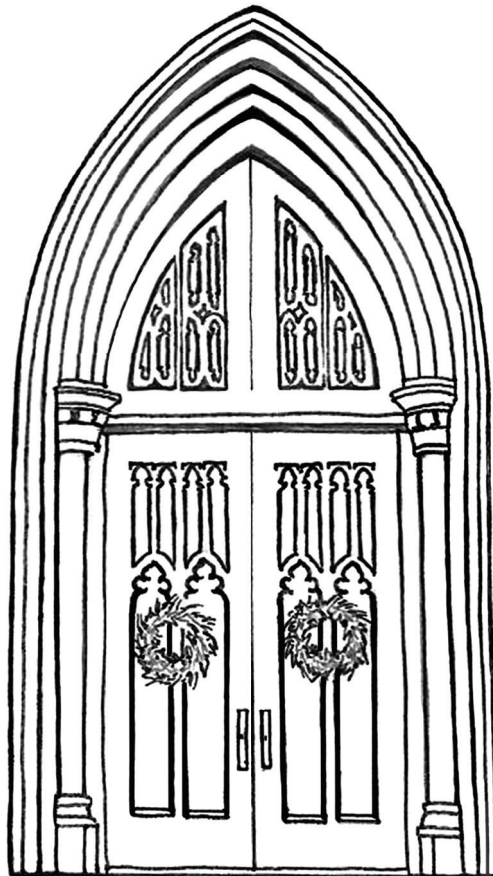


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Established 1795

*Christmas Eve*  
A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS



*December 24, 2025, 4:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.*

1324 Marion Street, Columbia, SC

# *Evening Worship*

December 24, 2025

4:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

ISAIAH 9:2, ESV

(+ Congregation, please stand if able.)

## **PRELUDE**

*Noël X, Grand jeu et Duo*

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

*Carol of the Bells*

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*Coventry Carol*

Louis-Claude Daquin

Arranged by Charles E. Peery

Arranged by Cindy Blevins

Arranged by Ralph C. Schultz

Arranged by Robert Powell

## **CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dr. Neil C. Stewart

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *Once in Royal David's City*

H. J. GAUNTLETT

Vv. 1-4 harmonized by A. H. Mann

V. 5 arr. by Sir David Willcocks

Solo 1. Once in roy- al Da-vid's ci- ty Stood a low- ly cat- tle shed,  
Choir 2. He came down to earth from hea- ven Who is God and Lord of all,  
All 3. And through all his won- drous child- hood He would hon- or and o- bey,

Where a mo- ther laid her ba- by In a man- ger for his bed:  
And his shel- ter was a sta- ble, And his cra- dle was a stall;  
Love and watch the low- ly mai- den, In whose gen- tle arms he lay;

Ma- ry was that mo- ther mild, Je- sus\_ Christ\_ her lit- tle child.  
With the\_ poor, and mean, and low- ly, Lived on\_ earth\_ our Sa- vior ho- ly.  
Chris- tian chil- dren all must be\_ mild, o- be- dient, good as he.

4. And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

5. Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

Wyman Bowers, Jr., Cecilia Easterling, Temperance Russell, treble soloists

## *First Lesson*

GENESIS 3:8–15

### **ANTHEM** *The Lord at First Did Adam Make*

Philip Barnes

The Lord at first did Adam make out of the dust and clay,  
And in his nostrils breathèd life, e'en as the Scriptures say;  
And then in Eden's paradise he placèd him to dwell,  
That he within it should remain, to dress and keep it well.

Now mark the goodness of the Lord, which he to mankind bore:  
His mercy soon he did extend, lost man for to restore.  
And then for to redeem our souls from death and hellish thrall,  
He said his own dear Son should be the Savior of us all.

Now for the blessings we enjoy which are from heav'n above,  
Let us renounce all wickedness and live in perfect love.  
Then shall we do Christ's own command, e'en his own written word,  
And when we die, in heaven shall enjoy our living Lord.

And now the tide is nigh at hand, in which our Savior came;  
Let us rejoice and merry be in keeping of the same.  
Let's feed the poor and hungry souls, and such as do it crave;  
Then, when we die, in heaven we our sure reward will have.

Traditional English Carol

## *Second Lesson*

ISAIAH 9:2, 6–7

### + **HYMN 208** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELUS  
Arranged by Sir David Willcocks

## *Third Lesson*

LUKE 1:26–38

### **ANTHEM** *Mary's Magnificat*

Andrew Carter

Softly a light is stealing,  
Sweetly a maiden sings,  
Ever wakeful, ever wistful,  
Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly  
Her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mary her song to Jesus  
Softly, serenely sings:  
“I will love you, I will serve you,  
May my lullaby glorify, magnify,  
My King of kings.”

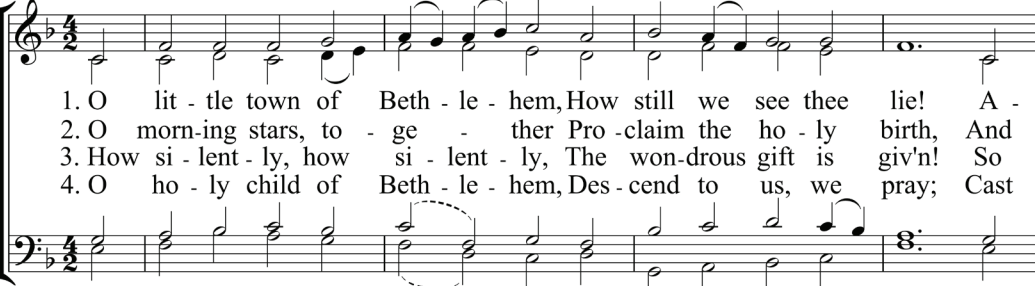
# Fourth Lesson

LUKE 2:1-17

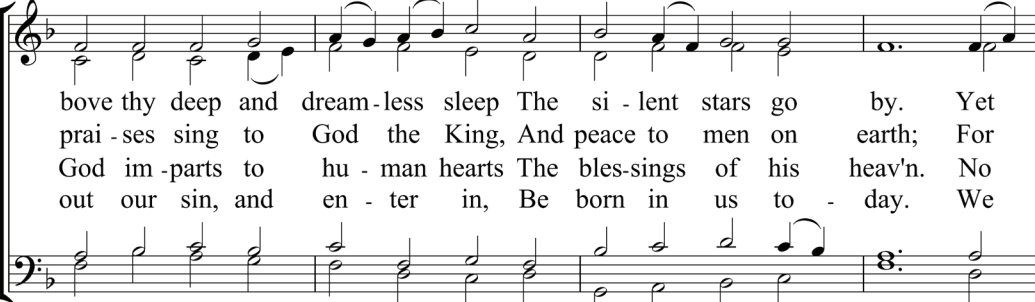
+ **HYMN** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

English Traditional Melody

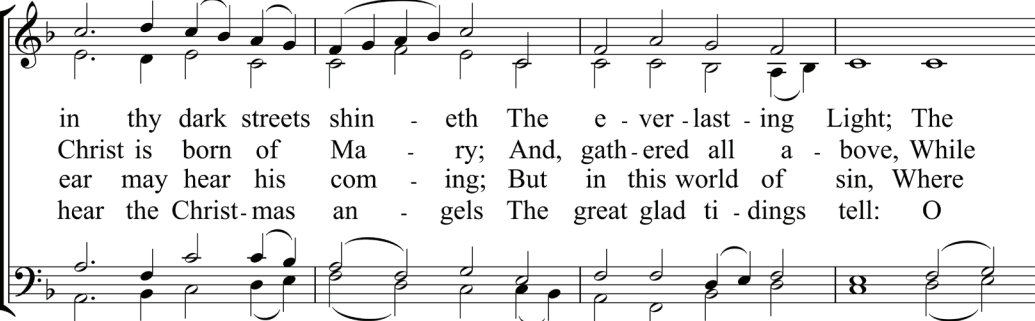
Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams and (V.4) Thomas Armstrong



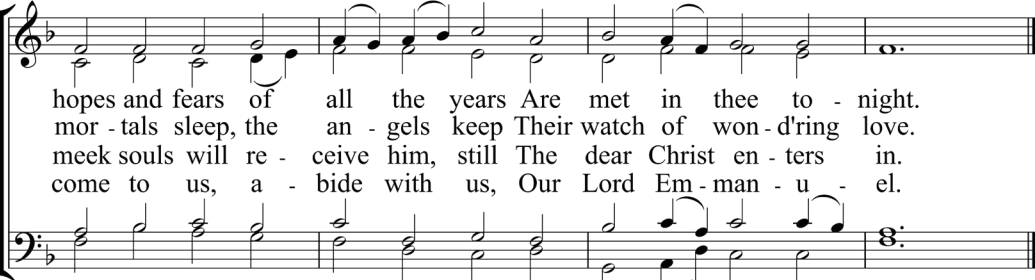
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie! A -  
2. O morn-ing stars, to - ge - ther Pro - claim the ho - ly birth, And  
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won-drous gift is giv'n! So  
4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, Des - cend to us, we pray; Cast



bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by. Yet  
prai - ses sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth; For  
God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bles-sings of his heav'n. No  
out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day. We



in thy dark streets shin - eth The e - ver - last - ing Light; The  
Christ is born of Ma - ry; And, gath-ered all a - bove, While  
ear may hear his com - ing; But in this world of sin, Where  
hear the Christ-mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell: O



hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el.

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain,  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,  
A breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay,  
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel, which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

Christina Rossetti

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:1–6  
(Pew Bible page 965; Children's Bible page 1253)

### HOMILY

Dr. Neil C. Stewart

**“Light in the Darkness: The Face of God in the Face of Christ”**

### PRAYER

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*We pass the light from one to another to symbolize the light that Jesus Christ has brought into our lives by his coming. When all the candles have been lighted, the congregation will join together in the singing of the carol.*

+ **HYMN 210** *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

*Immediately following the hymn, candles should be carefully extinguished.*

### PRAYER

+ **HYMN 195** *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

ANTIOCH

### BENEDICTION

*Please remain seated for the Postlude.*

**POSTLUDE** *Toccata on “He is Born, the Divine Christ Child”*

Denis Bédard

Mr. Thomas Russell, organist

# *Notes*

“Light in the Darkness: The Face of God in the Face of Christ”

2 Corinthians 4:1–6 | Dr. Neil C. Stewart

## *To Be Noted*

Thank you for turning off cell phones during the worship service.

**Christmas Holiday:** The church office is closed on Thursday, December 25, and Friday, December 26. If you need pastoral care assistance, please call (803) 513-7931 for the pastor on call.

The Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask a deacon for a receiver.

Nurseries for children to the age of four are provided in the Education Building. Parents of children who have been in the Nursery are asked to come for them promptly after the conclusion of the service.

Thank you to our Chancel Choir, Chamber Choir, Youth Chorus, and Junior and Primary Choirs for their contributions to our worship services this Advent and Christmas Season.

*Participating in the service today are:*

The First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Sally Cathcart, Jonathan McCullough, violins; Julie Anne Russell, viola;  
Campbell Cathcart, cello; Kaylee Santana, bass; Kathryn Rickert, flute; Audrey Rickert, harp

Dr. Daniel Cole, director  
Mr. Thomas Russell, organ

### **Readers**

Rev. David Henderson (4:00 p.m.)  
Rev. Josh Squires (6:00 p.m.)

## *New Year's Eve*

**Communion Service, December 31, 6:00 p.m.**

“A Psalm for the New Year”

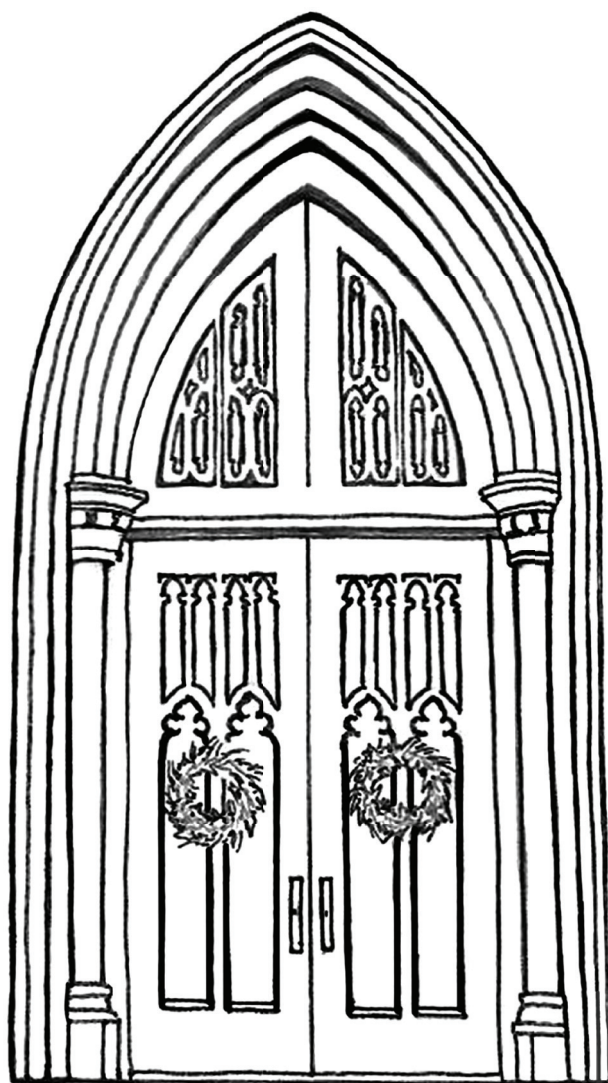
Psalm 145 | Dr. David Lauten

ESTABLISHED 1795

# First Presbyterian Church

## *Christmas Eve*

A Service of Lessons & Carols



DECEMBER 24, 2025, 4:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.

1324 Marion Street, Columbia, SC

# EVENING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2025  
4:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

ISAIAH 9:2, ESV

(+ Congregation, please stand if able.)

## PRELUDE

*Noël X, Grand jeu et Duo*

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

*Carol of the Bells*

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*Coventry Carol*

Louis-Claude Daquin

Arranged by Charles E. Peery

Arranged by Cindy Blevins

Arranged by Ralph C. Schultz

Arranged by Robert Powell

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Neil C. Stewart

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Once in Royal David's City*

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

H. J. GAUNTLETT

Vv. 1–4 harmonized by A. H. Mann

V. 5 arr. by Sir David Willcocks

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall:  
With the poor, and meek, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms He lay:  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as He.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above,  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars His children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

Wyman Bowers, Jr., Cecilia Easterling, Tempernace Russell,  
treble soloists

# *First Lesson*

GENESIS 3:8–15

**ANTHEM** *The Lord at First Did Adam Make*

Philip Barnes

The Lord at first did Adam make out of the dust and clay,  
And in his nostrils breathèd life, e'en as the Scriptures say;  
And then in Eden's paradise he placèd him to dwell,  
That he within it should remain, to dress and keep it well.

Now mark the goodness of the Lord, which he to mankind bore:  
His mercy soon he did extend, lost man for to restore.  
And then for to redeem our souls from death and hellish thrall,  
He said his own dear Son should be the Savior of us all.

Now for the blessings we enjoy which are from heav'n above,  
Let us renounce all wickedness and live in perfect love.  
Then shall we do Christ's own command, e'en his own written word,  
And when we die, in heaven shall enjoy our living Lord.

And now the tide is nigh at hand, in which our Savior came;  
Let us rejoice and merry be in keeping of the same.  
Let's feed the poor and hungry souls, and such as do it crave;  
Then, when we die, in heaven we our sure reward will have.

Traditional English Carol

# *Second Lesson*

ISAIAH 9:2, 6–7

## + HYMN 208

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELUS

Arranged by Sir David Willcocks

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

God of God,  
Light of Light;  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Late in flesh appearing.

# *Third Lesson*

LUKE 1:26–38

**ANTHEM** *Mary's Magnificat*

Andrew Carter

Softly a light is stealing,  
Sweetly a maiden sings,  
Ever wakeful, ever wistful,  
Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly  
Her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mary her song to Jesus  
Softly, serenely sings:  
“I will love you, I will serve you,  
May my lullaby glorify, magnify,  
My King of kings.”

# *Fourth Lesson*

LUKE 2:1–17

+ **HYMN** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*      English Traditional Melody  
Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams  
and (V.4) Thomas Armstrong

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 morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

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!

## **PRESENTATION OF EVENING OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain,  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed  
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Enough for Him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,  
A breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay,  
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel, which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

Christina Rossetti

## **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

2 Corinthians 4:1–6

(Pew Bible page 965; Children's Bible page 1253)

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **HOMILY**

Dr. Neil C. Stewart

**“Light in the Darkness: The Face  
of God in the Face of Christ”**

# PRAYER

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*We pass the light from one to another to symbolize the light that Jesus Christ has brought into our lives by his coming. When all the candles have been lighted, the congregation will join together in the singing of the carol.*

### + HYMN 210

*Silent Night! Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

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,  
Heav'nly 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!

*Immediately following the hymn, candles should be carefully extinguished.*

## **PRAYER**

+ **HYMN 195** *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

## **BENEDICTION**

*Please remain seated for the Postlude.*

## **POSTLUDE**

*Toccata on “He is Born, the Divine Christ Child”*

Denis Bédard

Mr. Thomas Russell, organist

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Psalms 145 | Dr. David Lauten