



University Presbyterian Church

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve, 11:00 p.m.

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD'S SIGN

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Jan Richardson

b. 1967

You hollow us out, O God,
so that we may carry you,
and you endlessly fill us
only to be emptied again.

Make smooth our inward spaces
and sturdy,
that we may hold you
with less resistance
and bear you
with deeper grace.

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Jean-François Dandrieu

Seven Noël's

1682-1738

Tous les Bourgeois de Chartres (*All the people of Chartres*)

Chantons je vous prie (*Sing, I pray you*)

avez-vous mon cher voisin? (*Do you know my dear neighbor?*)

O Nuit heureuse Nuit (*O night, happy night*)

Puer nobis nascitur (*Unto us a Son is born*)

Mais on sans es allé Nau (*But we've left without Nau*)

Michau qui causoit ce grant bruit (*Michau who caused this big noise*)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Don Hunter and Lew Lampiris

Isa. 9:2

One: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**All: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.**

One: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*HYMN 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Gloria

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

**We gather as your people, moved by
the beauty of this room,
the memories that fill our hearts,
the need that is etched on our neighbor’s face,
the fathomless gift of your love.**

Forgive our half-hearted incarnations of that love.

**Come to us now, until we
trust you more than the governors of this world,
receive the witness of unlikely messengers,
amaze our neighbors with unsettling news,
and tremble with a joy that must be shared.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Response of Praise

(*Hymnal*, 113)

**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!**

PROCLAIMING THE SIGNS OF WONDER

THE SPREADING OF LIGHT

As the ushers light the pew candles, we will sing Hymn 114, “Away in a Manger,” followed by Hymn 122, “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7 p. 638
(Children’s Bible, p. 796)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 2:1-20 p. 58
(Children’s Bible, pp. 1183-1184)

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Your Father’s Face” Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Time is provided following the sermon for a few moments of personal reflection and prayer.

*HYMN 158 “Born in the Night, Mary’s Child” *Mary’s Child*

*HYMN 121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *St. Louis*

RESPONDING TO GOD’S SIGN

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Offertory Sentence

At the Offering,

A Carol

Traditional English

arr. Gerald Near

b. 1942

Ding dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing:

Ding dong! verily the sky is riven with angel singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E’en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen.

And i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you dutifully prime your Matin chime, ye ringers;

May you beautifully rime your Evetime song, ye singers:

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Text tr. The Rev. George Radcliffe Woodward, 1848-1934

*Response

(*Hymnal*, 145)

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;

Come, one and all, to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings;

Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the King,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy

to give you thanks and praise,

for you are our Creator; your passion gave us life.

In love you formed us from the dust,

in love you shared your breath with us.

But we are a forgetful people; we go our own way.

And so, on a night like this, in a forgotten place,
your love erupted into flesh
when you came to us as a naked child,
wrapped in the weight of our sin.

**And so, with angels whose joy cannot be contained,
and with all the grateful generations
who have known your light in the darkness—
with all of these, we join our voices in praise:**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Holy One,
in this season of darkness we cling to the one
who came to bring light to the world.
You answered the prophet's plea and tore open the heavens
when you sent your son Jesus to us.

**He healed us with his presence;
he radiated your mercy.**

And when he died at our hands,
you answered his death with the gift of endless life,
that we might know that nothing can separate us from your love.
**We do not know the hour of his return,
but we hope to keep faith as we wait.**

God of all living,
send now your holy shadow over us
and come to us in this simple meal.

**By your mercy, let your life take root in our bodies
and swell until it cannot be contained,
and must be born anew.**

Here now the prayers of your people, as we come to you in the silence,
in the darkness, in our longing:

Silent Prayer

In the words Jesus gave us, we draw close to your heart:

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.**

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Tonight we will receive the sacrament by means of intinction (dipping the bread in the cup). As the servers say, "the bread of life," and "the cup of salvation," you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "thanks be to God." (All of the elements are gluten-free; all cups contain grape juice.)

Prayer of Response

TAKING THE SIGNS INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 134

“Joy to the World”

Antioch

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

One: Arise, shine for your light has come, Isa. 60:1-3
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and God’s glory shall appear over you.

**All: Nations shall come to your light,
and rulers to the brightness of your dawn.**

One: Go forth this night as herald’s of Christ’s birth. John 1:5

**All: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.**

*ORGAN POSTLUDE

**You are invited to stand, as able.*

Worship Notes

AS A COURTESY TO OTHERS, please turn off or silence all cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic devices for the duration of worship.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP TONIGHT: *Preacher:* Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Interim Pastor. *Liturgists:* John Rogers, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry; Elizabeth Michael, Interim Associate Pastor. *Choir Director and Organist:* Thomas Brown, Minister of Music.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TONIGHT: *Ushers:* Tom (captain) and Betty Bouldin, Elizabeth Bouldin, Dana and Bob Greenwood.

THIS EVENING’S VOLUNTARY: The French *Noël* was a semi-religious Christmas song (or Carol) written in the vernacular (during the time when the Catholic Mass was said in Latin) that was set to mostly popular music of the period that included plainchant, dance music, and even popular drinking songs. They were the secular Christmas Carols of the time, as opposed to the more formal Christmas music of the church. The French organ *Noël* flourished in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries when these short, charming pieces were intended to be played before the Christmas Eve Masses. *Noëls* utilized the same Christmas melodies that were well-known to the church-going public, and they offered a variety of moods and opportunities to exploit the colorful stops of the French organs of the period. Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738), one of many famous composers of *Noëls*, was also a famous organist and held (at the same time) several posts as organist at important Parisian churches. So popular was Dandrieu that, after he played his *Noëls* at one church on Christmas Eve, many in the congregation would leave with him and follow him to hear him play at the next!

THE WORSHIP BULLETIN, the weekly calendar, the announcements and UPC’s newsletter are posted on the church Website at www.upcch.org.

Worship Notes

A WORD ABOUT THIS EVENING'S OFFERING: The Christmas Eve Offering, as designated by the Session, will be divided to support the following ministries. The **Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund**: In recent years, this fund has helped give dozens of scholarship awards to students from Chapel Hill high schools. The recipients are students whose character and activities exemplify Dr. King's legacy of community-building. Awards are given by a university/ community foundation to students regardless of gender, race or economic status. **The Pastors' Discretionary Fund**: This fund is used by the church program staff to provide assistance to individuals and families in crisis, usually in collaboration with other local helping agencies.

THE COVER ART IMAGE is from hcruzblanca.org/hermanoleon/byn/rc/ev1in27.gif.

INFORMATION ABOUT UPC PROGRAMS is available on the church website at www.upcch.org. You can also learn more about programs, special services, events, and updates by joining us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/upcch, and we encourage everyone involved with Presbyterian Youth Connection to follow UPC Youth on Twitter @UPCPYC (twitter.com/upcpyc) and on Instagram @UPCPYC (www.instagram.com/upcpyc). Stay connected!

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON ROBERTSON LANE. It is fine to park in the designated pull-in parking spaces, but the road itself is a fire lane and must be kept clear. Thank you for your understanding.

HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES are set aside on Sunday directly in front of the church on Franklin Street. Please reserve these spaces for those with handicap parking permits.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNALS and portable hearing devices are available every Sunday in the narthex.



University Presbyterian Church Program Staff

Margaret LaMotte Torrence,
Interim Pastor

Thomas Brown, *Minister
of Music*

Elizabeth Michael, *Interim
Associate Pastor*

Kim McNeill, *Staff Associate
for Youth Ministries*

John Rogers, *Associate Pastor
for Campus Ministry*

Nancy Myer, *Staff Associate
for Children's Ministries*

Kate Fiedler, *Associate Pastor
for Adult Ministries*

Beth Auman Visser, *Director
of Children's and Youth Choirs*

Missionaries

The Rev. Dr. Karla Koll, *Costa Rica*

The Rev. Jo Ella Holman, *The Caribbean*

Two mission co-workers, *The Middle East*

University Presbyterian Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.