



University Presbyterian Church
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve

7:00 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

Ken, Charlotte, Garrett, Hunter, and Luke Pearce

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children, three-years old through third-graders, are invited to join the minister on the chancel for Time With Children. Children under three are invited to come forward with a parent.

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)

A Spiritual

Robert MacGimsey

Emma Lanford, *mezzo-soprano*

1898-1979

Sweet little Jesus Boy, they made you be born in a manger.
Sweet little Holy Child, didn't know who you were.
Didn't know you'd come to save us, Lord; to take our sins away.
Our eyes were blind we couldn't see, we didn't know who you were.

Long time ago you were born, born in a manger low, Sweet little Jesus Boy.
The world treats you mean, Lord. Treats me mean too,
But that's how things are down here; We don't know who you are.

You have told us how, we are trying.
Master, you have shown us how even when you were dying.
Just seems like we can't do right, look how we treated you.
But please, sir, forgive us, Lord. We didn't know it was you.

Sweet little Jesus Boy, born long time ago.
Sweet little Holy Child, and we didn't know who you were.

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.**

*HYMN 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Adeste fideles

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
Jay Baxley, *baritone*

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Carl Schalk

*Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You has got a manger bed.
All the evil folk on earth sleep in feathers at their birth.
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You has got a manger bed.*

1933 - 2010

Have you heard about our Jesus? Have you heard about his fate?
How his mother to that stable went that blessed Christmas night?

Winds were blowing, cows were lowing, stars were glowing.

To the manger came the Wise Men, bringing things from hin and yon,
For the mother and the father and the blessed little son.

*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.**

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.

TAKING THE SIGNS INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 134

"Joy to the World"

Antioch

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Isa. 60:1-3

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.

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

Go forth this night as heralds of Christ's birth.

John 1:5

**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:* Kim McNeill, Staff Associate for Youth Ministries; Nancy Myer, Staff Associate for Children's Ministries; Kate Fiedler, Associate Pastor for Adult Ministries. *Choir Director and Organist:* Thomas Brown, Minister of Music. *Youth Choir Director:* Beth Auman Visser. *Youth Choir Accompanist:* Betsy Carmichael.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TONIGHT: *Ushers:* Joe Buckner (captain), Carol Ann and Mark Peifer, Mary Ellen and Mike Olson.

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!

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.

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.



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

Welcome to the Fellowship of University Presbyterian Church

SUNDAYS AT UPC OFFER MANY opportunities for children, youth, and adults. We hope you'll join in the education, fellowship, and fun offered here. Please read below to learn more about how you can stay connected with everything happening at UPC.

SUNDAY MORNING OFFERS A TIME for all of us to engage in Christian education and worship at UPC. Worship, Sunday School for all ages, and childcare are offered each Sunday. **8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.:** Worship is held in the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for infants to 4-year-olds. During the 11:00 service, kindergarteners and four-year-olds go to Godly Play following the Time with Children. **9:45-10:45 a.m.:** Sunday School takes place for 3-year-olds through adults. Nursery is available for infants to 2-year-olds. Contact Nancy Myer at nancy@upcch.org for more information.

THE CHILDREN'S, JUNIOR AND YOUTH CHOIRS are a wonderful way to engage in the life of UPC and connect young people to their peers at the church. Experience music in a variety of ways while learning to sing, read music, and lead worship! **Sunday choir rehearsals:** Children's Choir (grades K-2): 3:45-4:10 p.m. Junior Choir (grades 2-6): 4:15-4:55 p.m. Youth Choir (grades 6-12): 5:00-6:00 p.m. Contact Beth Auman Visser at visser@upcch.org for more information about choirs.

THE YOUTH CHOIR will begin rehearsals for the Youth Choir's 2018 musical *Miss Persia*, by Eyal Bitton, on Monday, January 1, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and the Priscilla D. Bevin Memorial Choir Suite.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION (PYC) strives to help young people discern their call to be faithful disciples of Christ in the world. PYC connects youth to one another and to adults in the congregation that can support them on their journey of faith. This group offers our youth a safe place to ask questions, to seek answers and to be part of a community of faith that is focused on their specific needs. Contact Kim McNeill at kim@upcch.org for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL, PYC, AND JUNIOR AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS return on Sunday, January 7, 2018. Please join us!

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL 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!

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.