



# University Presbyterian Church

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

**December 24, 2018**

**Christmas Eve**

**11:00 p.m.**

## OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD'S SIGN

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Wondrous God,  
we have heard rumors of your coming,  
and so we gather in the darkness, praying for light.  
Send prophets to lift our heads,  
messengers to guide our feet,  
and companions to share the way,  
until the whole rejoices at the news  
that love has come.

### THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Jean-François Dandrieu

1682-1738

### Seven Noël's

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

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

Savez-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

Mike, Sharon, Carson, and Katie Edmiston

One: Friends, Isa. 9:2  
the night is far gone; the day is at hand.  
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)

\*HYMN 133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *Adeste fideles*

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.**

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

\*HYMN 121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S SIGN**

## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

\*Offertory Sentence

At the Offering,

A Carol

Peter Warlock

1894-1930

arr. Andrew Carter

b. 1939

Lullaby my Jesus, Lullaby my King.  
Lullaby my lording Whom I sweetly sing.  
Slumber softly, Slumber on your mother’s arm;  
She will rock you, She will keep you safe from harm.

Lullaby my Jesus, Lullaby my son.  
Lullaby my child in whom God’s will is done.  
Be at peace, soft dreams beguile you as you lie;  
I will rock you, I will sing a lullaby. Lalulla, Lullaby.

~ Words, Andrew Carter

\*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 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 watch in faith.**

God of all living,  
send your holy shadow over us, too,  
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

**Eternal Creator,**

**We thank you for the life we receive at your table,**

**and for the gift of companions with whom to share this meal.**

**By the power of your Spirit, send us out as midwives of your grace,**

**as a people who dare to hope with the full measure of our hearts—**

**for we pray in the name of Jesus,**

**whose day is about to dawn. Amen.**

## TAKING THE SIGNS INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN 134

“Joy to the World”

*Antioch*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*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:* Kate Fiedler, Associate Pastor for Adult Ministries; Hillary Bergman Cheek, Interim Associate Pastor; John Rogers, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry. *Choir Director and Organist:* Thomas Brown, Minister of Music.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TONIGHT: *Ushers:* Steve Kennedy (captain), Wood and Catharine Burns, Diana Gordon, David and Linda Lane. *Communion Servers:* Hank and Judie Waters.

THIS EVENING’S ORGAN VOLUNTARY: The French *Noël* was a semi-religious Christmas song (or *Carol*) written in the vernacular (during the time when the Catholic Mass was offered 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* utilized the same Christmas melodies that were well-known to the church-going public. They offered a variety of moods and opportunities to exploit the colorful stops of the French organs of the period, and were intended to be played as the Prelude to the Christmas Eve Mass. Jean-François Dandrieu, one of many famous composers of *Noëls*, was also a popular organist and held (at the same time) several posts as organist for important Parisian churches. So celebrated was Dandrieu that, much to the consternation of the clergy, after he played his *Noëls* at one church, many of the congregation would leave with him and follow to hear him play at the next!

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THE WORSHIP BULLETIN, the weekly calendar, the announcements and UPC’s newsletter are posted on the church Website at [www.upcch.org](http://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.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION...The work of proclamation belongs not just to preachers but to the Christian community as a whole. To that end, if thoughts or questions are stimulated by a sermon that you hear, your worship leaders would be grateful to receive your reflections. While we are always open to face-to-face conversation, sometimes it's easier to drop a note by email. We can't promise to respond to each email individually, but we would love to have your thoughts and questions inform our preparation for worship in the weeks to come. Any responses you'd like to share may be sent to [sermons@upcch.org](mailto:sermons@upcch.org).

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, and four spaces are available in the church parking lot off Robertson Lane. Please reserve these spaces for those with handicap parking permits.

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

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS is available on the church website at [upcch.org](http://upcch.org). Join us on Facebook at [facebook.com/upcch](https://facebook.com/upcch) and Instagram [@UPC\\_CH](https://instagram.com/upc_ch) ([instagram.com/upc\\_ch](https://instagram.com/upc_ch)) Join Presbyterian Youth Connection on Twitter [@UPCPYC](https://twitter.com/upcpyc) ([twitter.com/upcpyc](https://twitter.com/upcpyc)) and Instagram [@UPCPYC](https://instagram.com/upcpyc) ([instagram.com/upcpyc](https://instagram.com/upcpyc)).



### University Presbyterian Church Program Staff

Margaret LaMotte Torrence,  
*Interim Pastor*

Thomas Brown, *Minister  
of Music*

Hillary Bergman Cheek, *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.