



**University Presbyterian Church
Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

December 24, 2018

Christmas Eve

7:00 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

Elva and John Small

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.

INTROIT

Carol

In Dulci Jubilo

The Youth Choir

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

*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 come to the front of the Sanctuary 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)

*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.**

MEDITATION

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

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

RESPONDING TO GOD’S SIGN

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

*Offertory Sentence

At the Offering,

A Carol

Catalonian Carol

The Youth Choir

arr. Carolyn Jennings

b.1936

Dale Bailey and Ethan Merklein, *percussion*

Tim Rinehart, *bass*

On December five and twenty, Fum, fum, fum!
For the love of all the world is born a child, is born a child.
In a manger cold and lowly, see the newborn infant holy.

Little birds from field and forest, Fum, fum, fum!
To the manger swiftly fly with joyful song, with joyful song.
Hear the melody they’re bringing.
Through the air the sound is ringing.

Stars above are brightly beaming, Fum, fum, fum!
With a dazzling radiance pure they shine on high, they shine on high.
With a light to banish sadness, sorrow now is turned to gladness.

*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

*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; Hillary Bergman Cheek, Interim Associate Pastor; Nancy Myer, Staff Associate for Children's 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*: Steve Kennedy (captain), Joe Buckner, Carol Ann McCormick and Mark Peifer, Lewis Peel, Carolyn Schwarz.

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!

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.

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.

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 YOUTH, JUNIOR, AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS will resume their regular rehearsals on Sunday, January 6. The new year is a great time to join the choir! Contact Beth Auman Visser at visser@upcch.org for more information about choirs.

THE YOUTH CHOIR WILL BEGIN REHEARSALS for their 2019 musical, *NARNIA*, based on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis, on Saturday, January 5, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and the Priscilla D. Bevin Memorial Choir Suite. Performance dates are January 30, February 1, and February 2, 2019.

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.

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