

Carols of the Creche



Easley Presbyterian Church
December 3, 2023
11:00 a.m.

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Away in a Manger" arr. Palmer
String Quartet

* Call to Worship

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord!
Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!
**People: The Mighty One has done great things for us!
Holy is God's name!**

Leader: Let us worship God,
for God is our Maker and our Redeemer;

**People: From generation to generation,
God gives mercy.**
(based on Luke 1:46-50)

* Opening Prayer (Unison)

**Father in heaven,
our hearts desire the warmth of your love,
and our minds are searching for the light of your
Word.**

**Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior,
and give us the strength to grow in love,
that the dawn of his coming
may find us rejoicing in his presence
and welcoming the light of his truth.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The Donkey and the Cow

Lighting of the Advent Candle Isaiah 11:1-9
Monique German

Carol "Creation Will Be at Peace" arr. Page
Adult Choir and String Quartet

In the holy mountain of the Lord
all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord
creation will be at peace.

The wolf will lie down with the lamb,
the ox and bear will feed,
Their young will play together;
a little child will lead.

The leopard and the goat will graze,
the lion will feed on straw.
They will war no more;
a child will lead them all.

In the holy mountain of the Lord
all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord
creation will be at peace.

Prayer for Children

(Ages K3-1st Grade may leave for Children's Church)

**Little ones to Him belong:
Lord Jesus, bless our children. Amen.**

The Lamb

Scripture Reading John 1:29-34

Carol "The Friendly Beasts" arr. Hopson
Soloists, Adult Choir, and String Quartet

Jesus our brother, kind and good
Was humbly born in a stable rude
And the friendly beasts around Him stood
Jesus our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown
"I carried his mother up hill and down
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town"
"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow all white and red
"I gave him my manger for His bed
I gave him my hay to pillow His head"
"I," said the cow all white and red.

"I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm;
He wore my coat on Christmas morn;"
"I," said the sheep with curly horn.

"I," said the dove from the rafters high
"I cooed him to sleep so He would not cry
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I"
"I," said the dove from the rafters high.

Thus every beast by some good spell
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel,
The gift he gave Emmanuel.

The Angel

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-33

Carol "Angels From the Realms of Glory" arr. Forrest
Adult Choir and String Quartet

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God,
The Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

The Shepherds

Scripture Reading Ezekiel 34:11-15

Carol "Rise Up Shepherds and Follow" arr. Leavitt
Adult Choir and String Quartet

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
It will lead to the place where the Savior's born;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Halle, halle, hallelujah, singing glory hallelu.

If you take good heed to the angel's words;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

O come to Bethlehem and see
See Him whose birth the angels sing.
Hallelu, Hallelujah.

Joseph

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25

* **Hymn** "Once in Royal David's City" No. 140

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
Adult Choir and String Quartet arr. Forrest

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.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together proclaim thy holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessing 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.

continued...



Mary

Scripture Reading Luke 1:34-38

Carol "A Christmas Lullaby" arr. Hayes
Adult Choir and String Quartet

Sleep my child and peace attend thee,
all through the night
Guardian angels God will send thee,
all through the night
Soft the drowsy hours are creeping,
hill and dale in slumber sleeping,
God, his loving vigil keeping,
All through the night.

While the moon her watch is keeping,
all through the night;
While the weary world is sleeping,
all through the night;
O'er thy spirit gently stealing
visions of delight revealing
Breaths a pure and holy feeling
all through the night.

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.



Jesus

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7

Prayer (unison)

**Almighty and everlasting God,
you have stooped to raise fallen humanity.
Grant that we who have seen your glory
revealed in our human nature,
and your love made perfect in our weakness,
may daily be renewed in your image,
and conformed to the pattern of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" arr. Forrest
Adult Choir and String Quartet

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.

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.

Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
"alleluia" to our King,
"Christ the Savior is born."

Benediction

Postlude "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" Forrest
String Quartet

* Congregation Stands

Welcome to Easley Presbyterian Church

VISITORS—If you are visiting today, we would like you to know that it is always a privilege to have you with us. It is our hope that you will find a warm welcome and an atmosphere to worship God. **Please sign the Friendship Registry located in the pew!**



Director of Music, Robert Norris

Adult Choir

Sopranos

Jenna Cobb *
Tammy Darity
Cheryl Ledford
Mary Ann Merritt
Danielle Nunnery
Emma Reeves *
Mollie Respass
Alexandra Seabrook
Brenda Thompson
Molly Ulshafer

Altos

Melanie Branham
Olivia Burdette *
Jean Devich
April DuBose
Anna Goodwin
Barbara Gutwein
Margo Jackson *
Renee Keese
Anne Kilpatrick
Tracey Lake
Marge Moon

Tenors

John DuBose
Steve Freeman
Roger Levesque
Monty Oxendine
Selwyn Salter *
Judy Seeley
Vincent Weisner

Basses

Gregg Branham
Wyatt Burnett
Matt Lake
Griffin Lewis
Charlie McMillen
Richard Mintz
Gary Thompson
Charles Williams

Musicians

Violin 1, Kathy Perry
Violin 2, Katherine Strickland
Viola, Caroline Norris
Cello, Jeannie Edwards
Flute, Renee Keese
Percussion, Liz McCollough
Organ/Piano, Marianne Norris
Piano, April DuBose

Creche Children

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|------------------|-------------------|
| Camden Baker | Watson Durham |
| Emma Kate Griese | Lilly Griese |
| Matthew Kilborn | Lilah King |
| Luke Reynolds | Margaret Reynolds |
| Arlo Young | Mills Young |
| Paul Young | |

Upcoming Events & Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR COLLEGE-AGE YOUNG ADULTS

Welcome all college-age young adults! They will gather for Sunday School each Sunday until December 17. Phil Lyles and Melissa & Scott Wilbanks will lead this class in the upstairs classroom E-204 for fellowship and Bible study each week. We look forward to seeing you back at EPC!!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

The Advent devotional books are available on the display boards throughout the church. We hope these devotional books will deepen your Advent journey through Scripture, reflection, and prayer.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

The season of Advent is here already, which means that you're invited to serve as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army. Please sign up to ring the bell at RegisterToRing.com. You can choose the time and location that works best for you. Please use our group code: "Easley Presbyterian". Thank you for offering your time to this important ministry.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

5:30 pm - Wonderful Wednesday Meal (sign up online)
6:15 pm - Gift Making Workshop for Children, Youth , and Adults

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

4:00 pm - Christmas Caroling to EPC members and dinner out

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

5:30 pm - Wonderful Wednesday Meal (sign up online)
6:15 pm - Children's Choir Nativity

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 (Christmas Eve)

10:00 am - Sunday Worship Service (No Sunday School)
5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (nursery available)
8:00 pm - Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 (New Years Eve)

10:00 am - Sunday Worship Service (No Sunday School)

NURSERY STAFF

Valerie Brock
Sophie Wilson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (3-Year-Olds—1st Grade)

Melissa Wilbanks
Scott Wilbanks

SAFE PLACE

Jack Nunnery

USHERS

Greg Lucas, Head Lori Brock, Assistant

SOUND & LIGHT

Roger Kilpatrick

VIDEO

Ryan Moore