



*Sunday, December 17, 2023*

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*A Service of Lessons and Carols*

**Sunday**

**9:45am - Sunday School** *(in-person and online)*

**11:00am - Worship** *(in-person and online)*

**Wednesday**

**5:30pm - Wednesday Night Supper**

**6:15pm - Bible Study for Adults** *(in-person and online)*

**6:15pm - Children's Missions, Music & More**

**7:15pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal**

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Facebook: [@fernwoodbaptistchurchspartanburg](https://www.facebook.com/fernwoodbaptistchurchspartanburg) Instagram: [@fernwoodbaptist](https://www.instagram.com/fernwoodbaptist)

# The Lord's Day

The Lord's Day

December 17, 2023

The Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Matthew K. Johnson

The Passing of the Peace

Matt Johnson

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Gina Gossett & Michelle Mathews

The Carol of Joy

MUELLER

*A Candle is Burning*

Verse 3

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow  
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

## *A Service of Lessons and Carols*

The Processional

Henry J. Gauntlett  
arr. Mary Ellen Kerrick

*Once in Royal David's City*  
Marcia Harris, organ; Anne Graff, piano

The Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 2:2-5)

Matt Johnson

One: In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;

**All: all the nations shall stream to it.**

One: Many peoples shall come and say,

**All: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."**

One: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

**All: He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;**

One: they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

**All: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

One: O house of Jacob, come,

**All: let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

*Creation Will Be at Peace*

J. Paul Williams  
Anna Laura Page

Sanctuary Choir

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 cow and bear will feed,  
their young will play together; a little child will lead.  
The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.  
They will war no more; a child will lead them all.

Carol

ADESTE FIDELES

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

The First Lesson

Mike Ethridge

Genesis 22:15-18

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. Thomas S. Baxter

Fernwood Ringers

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

Arr. Roger C. Wilson

Marcia Harris, organ

The Second Lesson

Mike Ethridge

Isaiah 40:3-9

*Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

Mark Hayes

Simon Mishler, tenor  
Anne Graff, piano

A voice cries out, "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Ev'ry valley will be lifted up, ev'ry mountain and hill be made low.  
The uneven ground will be made straight, and the rough places, a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it."

He will open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the deaf.  
The lame will leap like a deer, and the speechless will sing for joy.  
The wolf will live with the lamb. The leopard will lie down with the goat.  
Springs will burst forth in the wilderness. In the desert, streams will flow.  
And the ransomed of the Lord will return and come with joyful singing unto Zion.  
All sorrow and mourning will be gone. Only gladness and joy will remain.

Carol

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!  
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!  
The hope of every nation, the promise of salvation.  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

The Third Lesson

Mike Ethridge

Isaiah 11:1-5, 10

*Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming*

Michael Pretorius

Lee Ane Bailie, Marijane Rhinebold, sopranos  
Susan Plemmons, alto

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.  
It came a flow'r-et bright, amid the cold of winter when half spent was the night.

Isaiah, 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To shew God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior when half spent was the night.

Carol

HYFRYDOL

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

The Fourth Lesson

Mike Ethridge

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*A Star*

Pepper Choplin

Sanctuary Choir

A star, rising in the east, a messenger of holy peace.  
A star, shining o'er the earth; the herald of a royal birth.  
Upon the darkness shines a light, and from the Lord there comes a sign.  
Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call his name, "Emmanuel"!

A star of heavenly design, revealing hope to humankind.  
A star, a witness of his care, the answer to the ancient prayer.  
For unto us a child is born, for unto us a son is given.  
The government shall be upon his shoulder. He shall be called Wonderful,  
Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

A star, shining thru the night, illumining the Way, the Truth, the Life.

Carol

CAROL

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from Heav'n's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

The Fifth Lesson

Mike Ethridge

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*Song of Mary* (from CELEBRATE LIFE!)

Buryl Red  
Ragan Courtney

Lori League, soprano  
Marcia Harris, organ

Sing, my soul, the greatness of the Lord. Rejoice, my spirit, rejoice in God, my Savior.  
So tenderly has he regarded me, so wondrously has he exalted me,  
all generations shall call me blest. For his name is holy, he is the mighty one.  
His mercy is ever sure.

<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	Anne Graff, piano	Victor Labenske
The Sixth Lesson	Luke 2:1, 3-7	Mike Ethridge
<i>Away in a Manger</i>	Fernwood Ringers	James R. Murray arr. Edgar Horton
Carol	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ST. LOUIS
<p>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.</p>		
The Seventh Lesson	Luke 2:8-16	Mike Ethridge
<i>Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child</i>	Lee Anne Bailie and the Young Singers of Fernwood	Traditional Spiritual arr. Mark Hayes
<p>Jesus, Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful Child; Jesus, Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild:  New life, new hope, new joy he brings. Won't you listen to the angels sing,  "Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King."</p>		
Carol	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	GLORIA
<p>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!</p>		
The Eighth Lesson	Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11	Mike Ethridge
<i>We Three Kings of Orient Are</i>	Marcia Harris, organ; Anne Graff, piano	John Henry Hopkins, Jr. arr. Ralph Manuel
Carol	<i>The First Nowell</i>	THE FIRST NOWELL
<p>The first Nowell the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  in fields where they lay a keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.</p>		
The Ninth Lesson	John 1:1-5, 14	Mike Ethridge

Sanctuary Choir

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky;  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The church from you, our Savior, received the gift divine,  
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the sacred vessel where gems of truth are stored;  
it is the heav'n-drawn picture of Christ, the living Word.

The scripture is a banner, before God's host unfurled;  
it is a shining beacon above the dark'ning world.  
It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging tide,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands, to you, O Christ, will guide.

*Sing when directed*

O — make Your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of — pur - est  
gold, to — bear be - fore the na - tions Your  
true light — as of old. O teach Your wan - d'ring  
pil - grims by this their path to trace, till,  
clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see You face to face.

Amen.

Benediction

Matt Johnson

Carol

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Our Vision**

*is to be Christ to each other and our community –  
doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God.*

**Choose How You Give**

Give easily and securely...

1. Offering envelopes during the service or by mail.
2. Set up *bill pay* straight from your bank.
3. On our website [www.fernwoodchurch.org](http://www.fernwoodchurch.org)
4. Directly through our online giving <http://onrealm.org/FernwoodBaptist/give/now>
5. Text from your phone: 73256 then keyword "fernwood" and dollar amount and follow the instructions.

**CHILDREN'S EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS**

Dec. 17 – Laura Hicks    Dec. 24 AM Service – Peggy Beard    Dec. 31 – Diane Blackburn  
Jan. 7 – Peggy Beard    Jan. 14 – Amy Said

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*Once in Royal David's City*; © 2001 Broadman Press  
*Creation Will Be at Peace* © 1992 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.  
*O Come, All Ye Faithful*; Words ca. 1743 John Francis Wade, tr. 1841 Frederick Oakeley; Music ca. 1743 John Francis Wade  
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*Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child* © 1999 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.  
*Angels We Have Heard on High*; Words, Trad. French Carol, tr. 1862 *Crown of Jesus*;  
 Music, French carol melody, arr. 1937 Edward Shippen Barnes, harm. 1964 Austin Lovelace © 1964 Abingdon Press  
*We Three Kings of Orient Are* © 1992 Broadman Press  
*The First Nowell*, Words and Music, trad. English carol  
*O Word of God* © 2023 Beckenhorst Press  
*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*, Words 1719 Isaac Watts; Music George Frederick Handel, arr. 1836 Lowell Mason  
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*Masks are not required while in the building. For those who wish to continue wearing a mask while in the sanctuary, there is a designated place on the side nearest the baptistery. There are signs on the pews.*

**All Members of Fernwood Baptist Church, Ministers**

Mrs. Lee Anne Bailie.....Director of Family and Communication Ministries  
 Mrs. Marcia Harris.....Assistant Music Associate  
 Rev. Matthew K. Johnson.....Senior Pastor  
 Rev. Dean Newkirk.....Office Administrator  
 Mrs. Rebecca Turner.....Music Associate  
 Dr. Stafford Turner.....Director of Music Ministries  
 Mrs. Mary Helen Wessinger.....Financial Administrator  
 Mr. Don Williams.....Custodian  
 Rev. Dr. P. Randall Wright.....Pastor Emeritus

**WELCOME, GUESTS!** We are honored to worship God with you today. If you would like to become a member of Fernwood Baptist Church, you are invited to speak with the minister following the worship service or by emailing [matt@fernwoodchurch.org](mailto:matt@fernwoodchurch.org). If you need pastoral care, please call 864-582-7467.

**SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!** Text "hello" to (864) 501-0585, for more information and to let us contact you.

<b>Guest Information</b>			
			Date _____
Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____			
State _____		Zip Code _____	
Home Phone # _____			
Cell # _____			
Best Time to Call:      Morning      Afternoon      Night			
Email Address _____			
_____			
Your Age Group:			
<input type="checkbox"/> 13-18		<input type="checkbox"/> 19-29	
<input type="checkbox"/> 30-39		<input type="checkbox"/> 40-49	
<input type="checkbox"/> 50-59		<input type="checkbox"/> 60-69	
<input type="checkbox"/> 70 & Older			
Children:			
Name _____		Age _____	
Name _____		Age _____	
Name _____		Age _____	
Please check the applicable:			
<input type="checkbox"/> First time guest		<input type="checkbox"/> Returning guest	
<input type="checkbox"/> Would like information about the church			
<input type="checkbox"/> New to the area		<input type="checkbox"/> Would like a visit	
<input type="checkbox"/> Would like to know more about becoming a Christian			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a guest of _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Request _____			
_____			

**Staff Love Gift** - Would you consider a "Love Offering" to our staff? You can give online "Staff Love Gift" or by mailing to the church office. P.O. Box 7058, Spartanburg, SC 29304 or by placing it in the offering plate on Sundays. Deadline is today, **Sunday, December 17.**

**FAMILY CAROLING AND CHILI DINNER**  
**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 4PM-7PM**

Meet at the church in the dining hall. We will go caroling and then return to share chili. Open to all church family. Please sign up on the information table.

**CBF Global Missions:** When you give to the offering for Global Missions, you are offering long-term recovery to communities following a natural disaster, and you are providing hope and healing for people living in persistent rural poverty.

**GUEST PIANIST** - We are delighted to have Anne Graff as a guest pianist today. She is an Adjunct Accompanist at Converse University. Anne moved to Spartanburg in 2020 from New York City where she held the position of Assistant Conductor and Accompanist for the Youth Chorus of Trinity Church Wall Street. She has continued to work for Trinity remotely as a teaching artist, as well as a guest teacher for special programs and events. Anne holds a BS in Biology from Tufts University and an MA in Piano Performance from Hunter College, where she also worked as an accompanist for voice students. She lives in Spartanburg with her husband, Steven Graff, and their son, Forest. Welcome, Anne!

**Key Information & Year End Contributions**

If you would like to drop your contribution by the church office, you may do so until **12PM on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**. You may also include it in the Sunday morning offering received during the **11AM Worship Service on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Contributions received after that time will be posted in the new year 2024. *Thank you so much for your contributions and support of Fernwood Baptist Church!*

**2024 Offering Envelopes** are here and may be picked up from the information table in the lobby. *Please be sure you look closely at the name when picking up your envelopes and only pick up yours.*