

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020 – 5:00pm – Live Streaming

The Light of Grace

Readers: Sandy Gates & Sarah Meadows

Musician: Lynne Bolton & Evelyn Renshaw

Prelude: “In Bethlehem’s low stable”

Walcha

Evelyn Renshaw, Organist

Opening Words & Prayer of Invocation:

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Sandy Gates and Sarah Meadows

On this holy night, mentally drop all the burdens you are carrying at the side of the newborn’s cradle. Imagine streams of light coming from heaven, surrounding you with grace. Lighting a candle is a simple act that can transform your life and your world. Light a candle of joy, hope, courage, peace, grace, and love in your home. Let us begin a blessed Christmas season begins.

Now let us Light the Advent Candles:

by: Howard Thurman

I will Light candles this Christmas, Candles of joy despite all the sadness, Candles of hope where despair keeps watch, Candles of Courage for fears ever present, Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days, Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens, Candles of love to inspire all my living, Candles that will burn all year long.

Scripture: Luke 2:1-5

Sarah Meadows

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Congregational Hymn: #155

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

1 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.

4 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.

Scripture: Luke 2: 6-14

Sarah Meadows

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Special Music: “Mary Did You Know?”

Lynne Bolton

Reading 1:

Sandy Gates

Congregational Hymn: #171

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1 Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King: peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. **[Refrain]**

Reading 2:

Sandy Gates

Special Music: “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

Lynne Bolton

Prayer: Unison

Sandy Gates

God of Christmas grace, your love is breaking through the dark night of my soul with a divine light that not only illuminates hope in my life, but also chases away my fears and gives me courage once again. I could not have asked for a better gift ever in my life than the gift of Jesus, your Son. May my Christ light that has been rekindled shine brightly now and forever. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 2:15-20

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

Congregational Hymn: #145

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

1 Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see evermore and evermore!

4 Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

Christmas Meditation:

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

Apostle’s Creed:

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

Candle Lighting Service: (people will light candle at home)

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

Congregational Hymn: #146

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

1 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.

4 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.

Benediction

Postlude: “Adeste Fidelis”

Barrett