

Christmas Eve Candlelight

December 24, 2021 – 7:00 Worship



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

Grace and peace! All are welcome here!

Embodying the Love of Christ, we are joyfully called to be a church in the heart of Black Mountain where the welcome never ends! We seek to share the love of Jesus Christ by inspiring worship and faith formation, nurturing authentic relationships, equipping disciples to serve, and being a welcoming and inclusive community to all.

We invite all to join us on the journey!

Please silence all communication devices. This sanctuary incorporates a hearing assistance loop; to engage this system, set hearing aids to the “t-coil” setting.

† indicates to stand, if you are able. The congregation is invited to join in where the liturgy is marked in bold.

Prelude

Carolyn Ziegler, *flute* • Ednamae Fisher, *organ*

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers – Robert Buckley Farlee

What Is this Lovely Fragrance – Paul Manz

The Son of Mary – Robert Buckley Farlee

Good People, All This Christmas-Time – Robert Buckley Farlee

A Christmas Prelude – Charles Callahan

Oh, Come, Little Children – Michael Burkhardt

O Little Town of Bethlehem – Paul Manz

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella – Alfred Fedak

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – Alfred Fedak

Sheep May Safely Graze – J. S. Bach

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

† CALL TO WORSHIP AND CANDLE LIGHTING

In God's house, there is hope —
for God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

**In God's house, there is peace —
for all that separates us from God falls away.**

In God's house, there is joy —
Because God created the mountains and the rivers, the oceans and the plains.
Joy in conversation, dancing, and laughter that is contagious,
and if those things have God's fingerprints, then God's house surely exudes joy.

**In God's house, there is love —
because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.**

And in the center of our hope,
in the center of our peace,
in the center of our joy,
in the center of our love, is God — who came to this earth to dwell among us.
Tonight we light the Christ candle, for God's love fills the earth and our lives.
Welcome home, family of faith.

† HYMN OF PRAISE

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!***

Refrain: ***O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!***

***Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!*** (Refrain)

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!* (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

David Carter Florence

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Joy,
we come to celebrate again
the arrival of Love Incarnate
here in our very midst.
Your glorious arrival
is enough to cause the forests to sing for joy,
yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh.
Your light of salvation
is bright enough to illuminate
every corner of our lives,
yet we still find ourselves shrouded
in worry and doubt.
Your gift of Love
is big enough for the whole world,
yet we still find ourselves resentful
that your love extends to those
whom we deem to be unworthy.
God, you invite us into the light of the stable
where the overlooked and forgotten have gathered
to celebrate the miracle of your love.
Give us the strength and courage
to join you at the manger. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

*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.

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?*

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bob Tuttle

CHORAL PRAYER

Advent Kyrie

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

(page 638 in Old Testament in pew Bible)

HYMN OF WONDER

What Child Is This?

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

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.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

(page 58 in New Testament in pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† **HYMN**

Still, Still, Still

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!

The virgin's tender arms enfolding,

warm and safe the child are holding.

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep

while angel hosts from heaven come winging,

sweetest songs of joy are singing.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.

RECEIVING OF OFFERING

Half of the cash offering tonight goes to support Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry

Before the Marvel of this Night

Donna Drake, *soloist*

CHORAL PRAYER

Wonderful Peace

Gustav Nordqvist

THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

A MOMENT OF DARKNESS

† THE PROCLAMATION OF LIGHT **John 1:1-5**

(page 91 in New Testament in pew Bible)

† THE SPREADING OF THE LIGHT

Silent Night

***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. Sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”***

***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, 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, Christ the Savior is born.***

*Once everyone’s candles are lit, the ushers will lead you outside
for our Charge and Benediction.*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

After the service, please extinguish your candle in the sand under the portico.

Merry Christmas!

There will be one worship service Sunday, December 26, at 11:00 a.m.

No FirstLight or Church School. The nursery will not be available.

Please feel free to dress casual or even come in your pajamas!



QR code

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

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an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy
providing a safe environment for children & youth

