



How Far Is It To Bethlehem?

*First Baptist Church
Whiteville, North Carolina
December 6, 2020*

The Church at Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

How Far Is It To Bethlehem?

Presented by
The Chancel Choir and Youth Musicians

Morning Worship

Eleven o' clock

* Please stand as you are able

Greeting

Dr. Wayne Brown

Prelude

O Holy Night

Mrs. Patricia Slomanski
arr. Lloyd Larson

*** Carol**

Congregation and Choir
Bryce Kronenwetter & Bridger Warlick, Brass

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Robert Nagel

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 hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Long desired, behold Him come,
Finding here His humble home.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Let us then with angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled."
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

The Advent Wreath

The Candle of Joy

Leader: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace.
Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should

be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in children, the lights and the music. But how often do we let our preparations—our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice and attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

People: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Leader: Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice. God has created you with the capacity for joy.

People: We will find what makes us joyful, and make that our gift to the world.

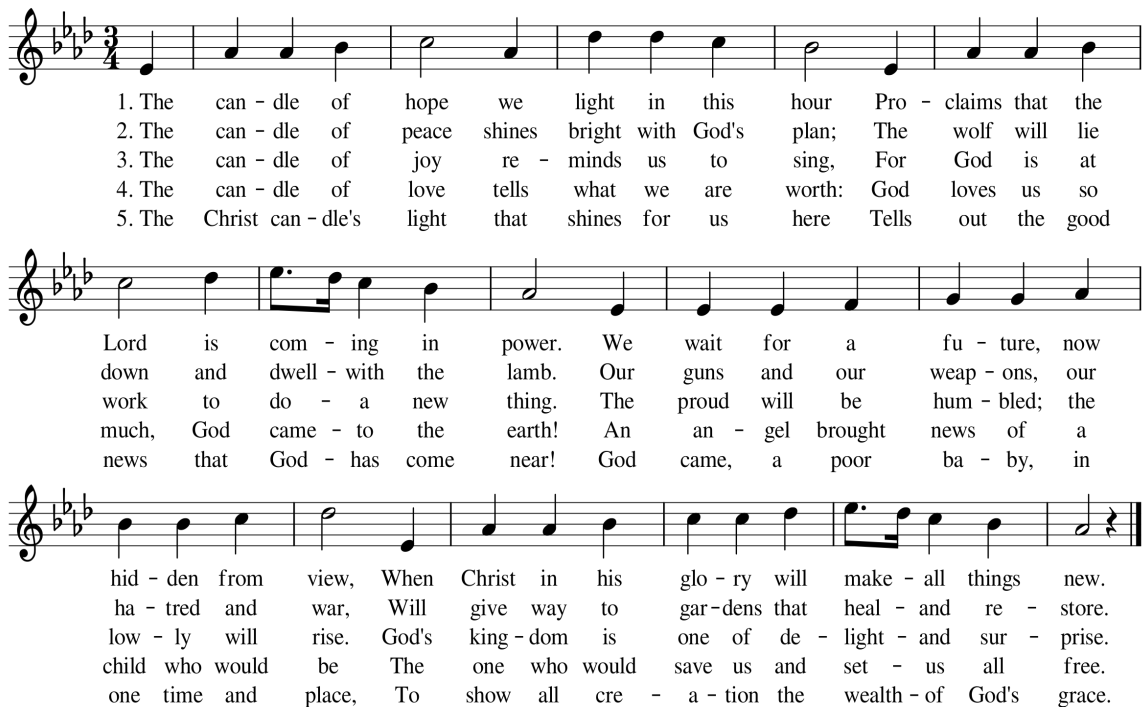
Leader: Trust in God's good will for all of creation and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.

People: We will welcome new possibilities in our lives. We will offer ourselves to God's goodness. We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.

Advent Response

LYONS

Candle of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Christ



1. The can - dle of hope we light in this hour Pro - claims that the
 2. The can - dle of peace shines bright with God's plan; The wolf will lie
 3. The can - dle of joy re - minds us to sing, For God is at
 4. The can - dle of love tells what we are worth: God loves us so
 5. The Christ can - dle's light that shines for us here Tells out the good

Lord is com - ing in power. We wait for a fu - ture, now
 down and dwell - with the lamb. Our guns and our weap - ons, our
 work to do - a new thing. The proud will be hum - bled; the
 much, God came - to the earth! An an - gel brought news of a
 news that God - has come near! God came, a poor ba - by, in

hid - den from view, When Christ in his glo - ry will make - all things new.
 ha - tred and war, Will give way to gar - dens that heal - and re - store.
 low - ly will rise. God's king - dom is one of de - light - and sur - prise.
 child who would be The one who would save us and set - us all free.
 one time and place, To show all cre - a - tion the wealth - of God's grace.

Carol

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

a traditional English melody
arr. Sara Glick

Bryce Kronenwetter, Mitchell Sauls, Bridger Warlick, Trio

How far is it to Bethlehem?
Not very far.
Shall we find the stable-room
Lit by a star?
Can we see the little child,
Is he within?
If we lift the wooden latch
May we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there,
Oxen or sheep?
May we peep like them and see
Jesus asleep?
If we touch his tiny hand
Will he awake?
Will he know we've come so far
Just for his sake?

Great kings have precious gifts,
And we have naught,
Little smiles and little tears
Are all that we brought.
For all weary children
Mary must weep.
Here, on his bed of straw
Sleep children, sleep.

God in his mother's arms,
Babes in the byre,
Sleep, as they sleep who find
Their heart's desire.

How far is it to Bethlehem?

Carol

While Shepherds Watched Their Sheep

an Hugo Jüngst

While shepherds watched their sheep by night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright;
How great their joy!
Great their joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God in heav'n on high!
Glory to God in heav'n on high!

"Fear not at all," he said to them,
"Jesus is born in Bethlehem!"
How great their joy!
Great their joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God in heav'n on high!
Glory to God in heav'n on high!

"There shall ye find in stable mean,
Christ who shall save the world from sin;"
How great their joy!
Great their joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God in heav'n on high!
Glory to God in heav'n on high!

Jesus we hasten to adore,
Grant us Thy blessing evermore;
How great their joy!
Great their joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God in heav'n on high!
Glory to God in heav'n on high!

Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol
arr. Sara Glick

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains:
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo-_____ria in excelsis Deo.
Glo-_____ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee
Why your joyous songs prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire you heav'nly song?
Glo-_____ria in excelsis Deo.
Glo-_____ria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem, and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, our newborn King.
Glo-_____ria in excelsis Deo.
Glo-_____ria in excelsis Deo.

Carol

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

African American Spiritual
arr. Earlene Rentz

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.
If you take good heed to the angel's words,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
You'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herds,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Leave your sheep and leave your lambs,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Leave your ewes and leave your rams,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Leave your sheep and leave your lambs,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Leave your ewes and leave your rams,
Rise up, shepherd, rise up shepherd,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd and follow.

Song

Gentle Mary, Tender Mary

Jay Althouse

Gentle Mary, tender Mary,
in a humble stable bed;
Gentle Mary, lovely Mary,
come and rest your weary head.
All is calm, all is bright;
sing a lullaby tonight.
Gentle Mary, tender Mary,
in a lowly manger bed.

Gentle Mary, tender Mary,
God has given you a son.
Gentle Mary, lovely Mary;
Jesus Christ, the blessed one.
Sleep in peace little Child,
Infant holy, meek and mild.
Gentle Mary, tender Mary,
God has given you a son.

Carol

What Child Is This?

arr. Malcolm Archer
Youth Trio

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!

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear! for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
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 peasant, king 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 Song of Mary.

Carol

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Georgiann Toole

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ, our Saviour, was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and Joy!

From God that is our maker the blessed angels came,
Unto some certain shepherds with tidings of the same,
That there was born in Bethlehem the Son of God by name,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and harmony each other now embrace.
The merry time of Christmas is drawing on a pace,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

Carol

On Christmas Night

Sussex Carol
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before Thy grace,
Then life and health come in its place:
When sin departs before Thy grace,
Then life and health come in its place:
Angels rejoice with us and sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Peace on earth, and good will, Amen.

Carol

Fum, Fum, Fum

Traditional Spanish Dance Carol
arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

On December five and twenty,
Fum, Fum, Fum!
On December five and twenty,
Fum, Fum, Fum!
Oh, a Child was born this night,
So rosy white, so rosy white.
Son of Mary, Virgin Holy,
In a stable mean and lowly,
Fum, Fum, Fum!

On December five and twenty,
Fum, Fum, Fum!
On December five and twenty,
Fum, Fum, Fum!
Comes a most important day,
Let us be gay, let us be gay!
We go first to church and then
We have the sweetest buns and candy,
Fum, Fum, Fum!

(Please continue on next page.)

God will send us days of feasting,
 Fum, Fum, Fum!
 God will send us days of feasting,
 Fum, Fum, Fum!
 Both in hot months and in cold,
 For young and old, for young and old,
 When we tell the Holy Story,
 Ever singing of His glory,
 Fum, Fum, Fum!

Song

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

a traditional English melody
 arr. Sara Glick

How far is it to Bethlehem?
 Not very far.
 Shall we find the stable-room
 Lit by a star?
 Can we see the little child,
 Is he within?
 If we lift the wooden latch
 May we go in?
 How far is it to Bethlehem?

*** Responsive Benediction**

Congregation

Leader: Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge that God is always coming into the world.

People: We will be God's light, shining bright as the star over the manger in Bethlehem. May our light shine to all we meet, through the depth of love in our own hearts.

Leader: May the blessings of Advent and Christmas make you a blessing to others; may the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

People: We will welcome the challenge of discipleship. We will offer ourselves as God's ministers. We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.

All: (sing)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

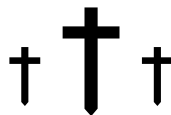
VENI EMMANUEL

*** Postlude**

Angels We Have Heard On High

Mrs. Slomanski
 arr. Harold DeCou

Please remain in place until the conclusion of the Postlude



How Far Is It To Bethlehem?

Participants

Narrator

Mrs. Tricia Sanderson

The Chancel Choir and Youth Choir

Brownie Cook
Leigh Cook
Myrtle Corbett
Sylvia Elkins

Robin Fort
Pat Hyatt
Sue Jordan
Bryce Kronenwetter

Rose Langston
Jolene Lewis
Stephen Prince
Carly Sanderson

Mitchell Sauls
Ella Jo Sellers
Anna Tolen
Bridger Warlick
Mary Gregg Williamson

Eddie Fort, Director

Patricia Slomanski, Organist

Audio-Visual Committee

Eric Kronenwetter
Kirby Sanderson

11:00 a.m. **Sunday, December 13**
Christmas Program Presented by the Chancel
Choir and Youth - "How Far Is It To
Bethlehem?"

10:00 a.m. **Monday, December 14**
WMU Meeting
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. **Tuesday, December 15**
Deacons Meeting

6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, December 16**
Prayer Meeting

10:00 a.m. **Sunday, December 20**
Sunday School with Rev. Wallyce Todd
Teaching

9:30 a.m. **Monday, December 21**
Finance Meeting

5:00 p.m. **Thursday, December 24**
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

Thursday & Friday, December 24 & 25
Office closed for Christmas Eve and
Christmas

4:00 - **Thursday, December 31**
8:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Drop-in Open Communion

Friday, January 1
Office Closed for New Year's



Church Staff

Dr. Wayne Brown, Interim Pastor
Rev. Eddie Fort, Minister of Music
Mrs. Patricia Slomanski, Organist
Mrs. Teresa Malpass, Ministry Assistant
Mrs. Dinah Reaves, Financial Ministry Assistant

Deacons of the Week

12/13 Coburn Powell / Brad Johnson
12/20 Ron Walters / Haywood Corbett
12/27 Lauren Cole / Donna Prince
1/03 Genie Carter / Peggy Underwood

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