



Second Presbyterian

CHURCH OF CHARLESTON

## THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE; ALL ARE WELCOME

*"Meeting people at their point of need, Inviting all into a dynamic relationship with Christ"*

December 24, 2020

11:00 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

*"The world will never starve for want of wonders, but only for want of wonder." - G.K. Chesterton*

### PRELUDE

On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing  
Coventry Carol  
Once In Royal David's City  
See Amid the Winter's Snow  
O Holy Night  
*Clarissa Rider, soloist*

Sussex Carol, 16th c.  
15th c, English  
Irby  
*Humility*, John Goss, 1871  
Adolphe Adam

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Cress Darwin

Tonight is the night for which we have been waiting.  
The Advent wreath is completed with the Christ candle in the center.  
"For unto us a child is given, unto us a Savior is born  
and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders."  
With the birth of Christ our lives are centered, focused, turned toward God.  
We light this candle because Christ is the center of our lives.

Let us pray together: **Dear God, who comes to us in Jesus, on this night as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let the power of Christ come into our hearts that we might find peace with you forever. Amen.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them a light has shined.**

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom He favors.**

### \*HYMN

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

ADESTE FIDELES

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!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

## GREETING AND PRAYER

\* \* \* \* \*

### FIRST LESSON

**Genesis 3:8-15**

Sarah Mitchell

#### ANTHEM

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

Sarum Chant, 9th c.

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.*

*When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,  
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.*

*At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.*

*To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.*

### SECOND LESSON

**Isaiah 11:1-9**

Clarissa Rider

#### ANTHEM

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

16th c. German carol

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.*

*It came, a floweret 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 show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior when half spent was the night.*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.*

### THIRD LESSON

**Micah 5:2-5a**

Joel Dettweiler

#### HYMN (please sing)

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

ST. LOUIS

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.

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!

**FOURTH LESSON****Matthew 1:18-21**

David Savard

ANTHEM

"In the Bleak Midwinter"  
Kiri Taylor and Clarissa Rider, soloists

text: Christina Rossetti (1872)  
music: Harold Darke

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day, a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

**FIFTH LESSON****Luke 2:8-20**

Lee Lingle

**HYMN (please sing)****Angels We Have Heard On High**

GLORIA

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!

**SIXTH LESSON****John 1:1-14**

Cress Darwin

ANTHEM

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Divinum Mysterium

*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!*

*O ye heights of heaven adore Him, angel hosts, His praises sing: Powers, dominions, bow before Him,  
And extol our God & King; Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!*

*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!*

**MEDITATION****Rev. Cress Darwin**

## Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## \*HYMN

### Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

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.

## BENEDICTION



Please join us for a Christmas Day Message online: [www.2ndpc.org](http://www.2ndpc.org)  
Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am

### STAFF & LEADERS

Rev. Cress Darwin, Pastor, [cdarwin@2ndpc.org](mailto:cdarwin@2ndpc.org)

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Rob McCready, Property

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