

# THE WORSHIP OF THE LORD

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

## GATHERING MUSIC

### CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*Worship begins with the Voluntary. Please use this time to enjoy the sacred music and to prepare your heart and mind for an encounter with God.*

### VOLUNTARY

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*.....arr. M. Mier  
Karen Sawyer

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Rev. J. Kenneth Byrd, Jr.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Host of Hosts, from sunrise to sunrise, and generation to generation, we are your people.

**You have been with us wherever we have gone. You will be with us wherever we may go.**

You planted us in a land flowing with milk and honey, then you planted our salvation in Mary's womb.

**Jesus, who is the Christ, is planted firmly in each one of us.**

Our souls magnify the Holy One.

**Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.**

### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Shirley House & Kelle Joyner

### \*RESPONSE

The Candle of Love

### \*CAROL OF PRAISE NO. 77

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*.....HYFRYDOL

### OLD TESTAMENT READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Ross Strickland

### INVOCATION AND THE 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.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,*

*and the glory, forever. Amen.*

### \*OFFERTORY CAROL NO. 94

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*.....REGENT SQUARE

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Linda Cooper

### \*A DOXOLOGY NO. 253.....THE FIRST NOWELL

### A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Byrd

### CONGREGATIONAL CHORUS NO. 82

*Emmanuel*.....MCGEE

### JOYS/CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Byrd

### GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26-38

### A CALL TO PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Litany

Leader: God of life, in love, you created the world out of nothing - providing us with everything we need - most important, a relationship with you, our Creator. And yet, we have not always honored that relationship, sometimes turning away from your love. But your love remains steadfast.

**People: Restore us, O God.**

Leader: God of mercy, you heard the cries of your people, and in an act of love and grace, freed them from the bondage of slavery under pharaoh. And yet, your people complained about what they did not have, failing to rejoice in you and the gift of freedom. But your love remained steadfast.

**People: Restore us, O God.**

Leader: God of compassion, you sent prophets to remind your people of your love for them, beseeching them to return to you. We yearn for the time when your word is inscribed on our hearts. And yet, we continue to turn away from you. We are grateful you still remind us that you are our God, and we are your people. Your love remains steadfast.

**People: Restore us, O God.**

Leader: God of grace, in your greatest act of love, you came to Earth in the form of a baby to be with us, teach us, and, ultimately, to redeem us. Awaken our souls to your presence. Fill our hearts with the desire to turn our hearts to you. Inspire us to share the good news that your love remains, and is always, steadfast.

**People: Restore us, O God.**

Leader: Amen.

### WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

### SHARING IN GOD'S WORD

***Time in a Bottle: A God of Restoration!***

*Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26*

Rev. Byrd

### \*CAROL OF RESPONSE NO. 106

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*.....W ZLOBIE LEZY

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas, Stars and angels gave the sign.  
Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine;  
Love to God and all people,  
Love for plea, and gift, and sign. Go forth in God's Love!

**AMEN!**

### \*RESPONSE NO. 76

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain)*..... VENI EMMANUEL

### \*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

### \*POSTLUDE

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*.....arr. Lani Smith  
Clyde Patterson

*\*Congregation stands, who are able*

All scripture readings are from *The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version.*

## The Ministry of Worship

Rev. J. Kenneth Byrd, Jr., Pastor  
Blaine Pittman, Director of Music & Education  
Clyde Patterson, Organist  
Karen Sawyer, Church Musician

## Today

Deacons: Ross Strickland & Linda Cooper  
Children's Church: Debi Davenport  
Nursery & Toddlers: Carol Gay

## 2023 Financial Summary for 51 Weeks

Financial information is not shared online.

## Member Prayer Request

Tim Bartholomew	Herbert Hopkins	Claudia Mull
Wilbur Batchelor	Eric Jeffreys	Donald Parker
Patsy Carty	Sue Jenkins	John Scheipers
Weedie Hayes	Dot Morris	Jeremy Winstead

## Prayer on Behalf of Members

Ella Ames	Rudy Frazier	Louise Ramsey
Harrison Barnett	Joey Garrell	Family of
Gerald Butler	Gerald Hale	Macon Robertson
Pam Butler	Kevin Hinsdale	David Sawyer
John Byrd	Linda Jernigan	Edith Skinner
Veda Byrd	Family of	Janie Weaver
Brenda Caldwell	John Joyce	Trudy Womack
Annette Carrico	J. R. McPherson	
John Chamblee	Maryanne Davis Powell	

## Card Ministry to the Homebound

