

The Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island
December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve

"Gathering in God's presence..."

Prelude

Away in a Manger

Mueller

Words of Welcome

Celebration of Baptism

Chasen Lee Ashby

Elder: Linda Manus

Lighting the Christ Candle

Stroman Family

Hearing the Christmas Story

Readings adapted from "Unwrapping the Christmas Creche"
by Lisa Flinn and Barbara Younger

Prayer of Illumination

The Birth of Jesus, Luke 2:2-7

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 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. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 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.

Carol

Still, Still, Still

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.*

The Angels and Shepherds, Luke 2:8-20

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 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: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what

the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Anthem

Rise Up Shepherd, and Follow

African-American Spiritual

*There's a star in the East on Christmas morn.
Rise up shepherd and follow,
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born,
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, leave your rams,
Rise up shepherd and follow.
Follow, follow, Rise up shepherd and follow,
Follow the Star of Bethlehem, Rise up shepherd and follow.*

*If you take good heed to the angel's words,
Rise up shepherd and follow,
You'll forget your flocks, 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.*

The Wise Men, Matthew 2:1-2, 7-12

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol

Away in a Manger

Mueller

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.*

Christmas Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Gracious Lord, look with favor upon us, your children. Help us to receive your love and find peace in our souls. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We come to your stable, Lord, with wonder for the gift we find in the Christ Child. May we always be filled with awe that you love us. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

As Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and Wise Men beheld their lord and king, we acknowledge your lordship in our lives. Help us to run and share the good news that you have come to save us from our sins. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Your angels pronounced peace and good will on earth, but Lord, our world is so torn apart. Bring healing to hearts wounded unjustly, bring an end to oppression, stop wars, and reconcile us to each other. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, be with those who are homeless, lonely, cold, and hungry. Be with those who are grieving and in need of your comfort. Be with those who are ill and need healing. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

All these prayers we offer up to our Lord, trusting that God hears and answers according to his divine will and praying the prayer Christ taught us to pray.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Joy to the World

Antioch

"...sending in God's Name."

Leading Worship:

Advent Candle Liturgy – The Stroman Family

Scripture Readings – Ross Sanders, Grace Judy, Jordan Mae Bazzle

Guitar and Vocals – Sam Plexico

Vocals – Ross Sanders

Music Director – Sheri Melton

Pastor – Ashley Sanders

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