

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 13, 2009

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Wait for the Lord

Advent 2009

Listen for the melody of *Joy to the World*, played on the Orchestra Chimes near the end of this piece.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

GOD WITH US FOR ALL TIME
GENEVA HANDBELL CHOIR; EMILY WILMARTH, ORCHESTRA CHIMES

ARR. BETTY GAREE

(As the opening voluntary begins, please use this time to center yourselves for worship.)

WELCOME

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.*

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT

ADVENT CELEBRATION

MARK PATTERSON

NAZARETH CHOIR; RACHEL STEWART DIRECTOR; RICK WORNAT, ACCOMPANIST

Celebrate the coming of the King! Light the candles one by one.

Come share the joy he brings. Celebrate the coming of the King!

Soon the child will reign among us, Jesus Christ, the promised one,

Prince of Peace, Messiah, God's own Son.

Hold fast, keep watch; great joy is coming! Look close, stay sharp; Christ is coming soon!

Look to the heavens, follow the bright star shining in the dark of night.

Soon we will find him born in a manger. He will bring us truth and light.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY

The candle for the third Sunday of Advent, sometimes called Gaudete (the Latin word for rejoice) Sunday, is rose or pink. The pink candle joins the two blue (the color of waiting) candles in anticipation of the joy of Christmas.

✦ HYMN NO. 3

COMFORT, COMFORT YOU, MY PEOPLE

PSALM 42

✦ CALL TO CONFESSION

✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world...

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

✦ DECLARATION OF PARDON

✦ RESPONSE

AWAKEN US, GOD

MUELLER

We pray that your word may be born in our hearts,
That we may shine bright with the joy it imparts.
We pray as we wait for Emmanuel's birth,
The light of our hope may illumine the earth.

✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

FREEDOM IS COMING

SOUTH AFRICAN PROTEST SONG

JERUSALEM CHOIR; RACHEL STEWART, DIRECTOR, KAREN BROWN, ACCOMPANIST

Freedom is coming, freedom is coming, oh, yes, I know.

Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming, oh, yes, I know.

This song was born out of the suffering of apartheid in South Africa. Collected and published in the early 1980's, it speaks for all oppressed peoples. "A singer may be silenced, but never the song."

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

PAGE 902, OT, PEW BIBLE

Zephaniah wrote in the city of Jerusalem during the reign of King Josiah. He was a contemporary of the prophet Jeremiah.

MOVEMENT CHOIR, LEIGH CAMPBELL TAYLOR, DIRECTOR;

THOMAS BANYAI, BETHANY BENZ-MANESS, TRICIA BERRETT, RICHARD EZELL, OLIVIA ROORBACH, LYDIA RAINWATER

SILENCE

ANTHEM

AND JEHOVAH WILL DANCE
CHANCEL CHOIR

MARK HAYES

And Jehovah will dance over you in joy! God will take delight in those who are loved.
Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God? No, Jehovah the Lord is exulting o'er you in song!
And God will joy over you in song!

My soul will make its boast in God, the Lord, who answered all my cries;
Whose faithfulness to me is as sure as the dawn of a new day.

Awake my soul, and sing! Let my spirit rejoice in God!

Sing, O children of Zion, with all of your heart! Cast away fear for you have been restored!
Put on the garment of praise as on a festival day. Join with Jehovah in glorious, jubilant song,
And God will joy over you in song!

SECOND LESSON

LUKE 3:7-18

PAGE 56, NT, PEW BIBLE

SERMON

WHAT THEN SHALL WE DO?

CAROLINE M. KELLY

RESPONSE

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

TAIZÉ

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord, I will re -

joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is

near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near. In the

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

(For the text of the Lord's Prayer, see page 16 in the Hymnal)

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

ARR. J. EDMUND HUGHES

WOMEN OF CHANCEL CHOIR; RACHEL STEWART, SOLOIST

Of the Father's love begotten
 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
e'er the world began to be
 from tender stem hath sprung

he is Alpha and Omega
 of Jesse's lineage coming
he the source, the ending he
 as men of old have sung.

of the things that are that have been
 it came a floweret bright
and that future years shall be,
 amid the cold of winter

evermore and evermore,
 where half spent was the night.
 Blooming, blooming.

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
evermore and evermore!

The word Noel comes from the French word *Noël* meaning "night", from the Latin word *natalis* - "birth". It may also be from the Gaulish words *noio* or *neu* meaning "new" and *helle* meaning "light" referring to the winter solstice when sunlight begins overtaking darkness.

✦ **AT THE PRESENTATION**

DOXOLOGY

THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**Praise God, all creatures here below.****Praise God above, ye heavenly host****Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.****Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!**✦ **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**✦ **HYMN NO. 13**

PREPARE THE WAY

BEREDEN VAG FÖR HERRAN

✦ **ADVENT BLESSING**

God of the watching ones,
the waiting ones,
the slow and suffering ones,
the angels in heaven,
the child in the womb.

Give us your benediction,
your good word for our souls,
that we might rest and rise
in the kindness of your company. Amen.

The text to *Joy to the World* is by Isaac Watts, the father of English hymnody. He composed more than 600 hymns. Lowell Mason adapted the hymn tune, ANTIOCH from two tunes by G. F. Handel. Mason was choirmaster at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian in New York City, where he introduced the practice of congregational singing. He is also credited with introducing music education into American public schools.

✦ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** HYMN NO. 40, STANZA 2

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

ALL PRAISE TO YOU, ETERNAL SON

MALCOLM ARCHER

WORSHIP NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ Please rise in body or spirit.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Our liturgists today are Gary Charles and Erika Rembert.

The lighting of the Advent candles is an old tradition, probably originating with the Lutheran church, but appropriated by almost all others. While we light a new candle each week to signify the important themes of the season - hope, peace, joy, and love - it is important to focus primarily on the increasing light that the candles generate throughout the season as we draw nearer to our celebration of the birth of Jesus, who is the light of the world. This morning Lee Biola, Marci Bozeman, Philip Covin, Eleanor Lancaster, and Mary Elizabeth Pope will light the third candle, the candle of joy.

Royal blue is the color of royalty to welcome the coming of a King. It can also symbolize the night sky in which the star appeared to announce the birth of Jesus. While purple has traditionally been the liturgical color for Advent, royal blue is increasingly used for Advent, especially in Protestant churches, to distinguish it from Lent.

The Advent paper-lace banners were created by Ellen Phillips, Liturgical Artist. Isaiah 35:1-10 is the inspiration for the paper lace banner we add today. The view that Isaiah portrays is a marvelous, joyful dance of all creation. Springs break forth in the desert; blossoms bloom profusely; the whole cosmos is alive with the *joy* of the Lord. This design is based on a twelfth-century manuscript illumination by Hildegard of Bingen.

The quilted Advent banners hanging in the narthex represent the Advent hymn *Christ, Be Our Light*.

During Advent, the flowers in the sanctuary reflect the beauty of the season, provided through gifts in honor or memory of a friend or family member. A list of donors and the names of those whom their gifts honor will be included in the bulletin on December 20. To donate contact Sandra McDonald, 404-601-3137, or use the form on the website: [www.cpcatlanta.org](http://cpcatlanta.org). The deadline is December 17.

We thank Stuart Gerber of the Music Department of Georgia State University for allowing us to rent their Orchestra Chimes.

Audio recordings of today's sermon may be found on the Central website: <http://cpcatlanta.org/worship/sermons.html>. You may also subscribe to the podcast of sermons preached at Central by visiting <http://cpcatlanta.org/worship/podcast.html>.

Music is printed under Onelicense.net AA-710014.

Parish Christmas Caroling

Calling all carolers!

Wouldn't it be great if Central sang out in every corner of the city on the same night??

Carols will be provided and we will use the same music for caroling in Tull Hall that morning before church.

If you'd like to participate, call one of the folks listed below and plan to join us

on Sunday, December 20, for a few hours of merriness and music.

Jean Ellen Jones (Intown North Parish);

Tricia Berrett (North Decatur/Stone Mountain Parish);

Carol McCullough (Decatur Parish); or

Juliana Winters (Brookwood Parish).

THANKS TO THOSE SERVING DURING WORSHIP TODAY

<p style="text-align: center;">Ushers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Roger Smith, captain Max Gallman ▪ Michael Lloyd Carolyn Porter ▪ Mike Sizemore Bennett Wiggins</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Greeters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ruth Dinkins ▪ Marci Bozeman Roland Kinser ▪ Deanna Robbins Carleen Savage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Elders of the Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Campbell-Eagan:</i> Eleanor Lancaster <i>Washington Street:</i> Virginia Knight</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Deacons of the Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Max Gallman ▪ Vicki Norman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cashier</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Roger Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sound Engineer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matt Parrish</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Collectors of Friendship Pads</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carol McCullough Messer JoAlice Halsell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choir Guild</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bill Thompson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Caring for Our Youngest Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Infants & Toddlers</i> Paid Staff</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Preschool & Pre-K Room</i> Paid Staff</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Counters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lee Biola ▪ M. E. Pope David Messer</p>
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THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

Sunday, December 13

- 12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party
- 6:30 p.m. Genesis, Geneva, and Chancel Choirs' Christmas Party

Monday, December 14

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Devotions
Rand Chapel
- 2:00 p.m. Worship Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 15

- 7:00 p.m. Silent Night Service
Rand Chapel

Wednesday, December 16

- 12:15 p.m. Mid-week Advent Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Geneva Handbell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 17

- 10:00 a.m. Administrative Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Studies

Friday, December 18

- 9:30 a.m. Mothers of Young Children

Saturday, December 19

- 8:00 a.m. Prison Trip
- 4:00 p.m. "College-Age" Christmas Party
Hertzberg home

Sunday, December 20

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Choirs
- 9:00 a.m. Youth Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Pot Luck Christmas Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Caroling
- 11:00 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day
Gary Charles preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Peace Vigil
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Full Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- Late afternoon and evening: Parish Caroling

For more information about any of the above events,
please call the Church Office - 404-659-0274.

WINTER STUDIES 2010

Grace and Gratitude: John Calvin 500 Years Later

- January 3 *Grace and Gratitude – Setting the table for the rise of Calvin*
Gary Charles
- January 10 *Grace and Gratitude – Calvin’s voice from an unmarked grave*
Dr. George W. Stroup
J. B. Green Professor of Theology
Columbia Theological Seminary
- January 17 *Grace and Gratitude – Calvin’s community of worship and praise*
Dr. Kimberly Long
Assistant Professor of Worship
Columbia Theological Seminary
- January 24 *Grace and Gratitude – a font of blessing and a table of thanksgiving*
Dr. Martha Moore-Keish
Assistant Professor of Theology
Columbia Theological Seminary
- January 31 *Grace and Gratitude – legacies of Calvin, from slavery to Barmen
and apartheid to Belhar*
Gary Charles

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

201 Washington Street • Atlanta, Georgia 30303

404-659-0274 • www.cpcatlanta.org

WORSHIP STAFF

Gary W. Charles, Pastor • Caroline M. Kelly, Associate Pastor
Lynn A. Turnage, Christian Educator • Molly Kent, Director of Youth Ministries
David A. VanderMeer, Director of Music Ministries • J. Michael Morgan, Organist
Catherine Neelly, Erika Rembert, and Emily Wilmarth, Resident Pastors
Stephen A. Bacon, Coordinator, Pastoral Residency Program

PASTOR EMERITUS

P. C. (Buddy) Ennis

IN PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Matthew Flemming & Jillian Embrey

OTHER ADVENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Advent Silent Night Service

Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in Rand Chapel

When Christmas preparations are difficult because of illness, grief, unemployment or loneliness, we gather together to claim the promise of our faith,
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 16 at 12:15 p.m. in Rand Chapel

A half hour service of scripture, prayer, music, and meditation

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24

Children's Christmas Pageant and Holy Communion
4:00 p.m. (*note the new time*)

Cookies and punch

10:00 p.m. in Tull Hall for returning college students, family, and friends

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
and Holy Communion

11:00 p.m. (*note the new time*)

Annual Christmas Breakfast

Sunday, December 20, 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Bring your favorite seasonal breakfast dish
and the church will provide coffee and juice.
Also, bring your voices so we can sing carols together.

Parish Caroling

Sunday, December 20

Join one of our parishes as we carol in the greater Atlanta community
and join in members' homes for seasonal treats.

Christmas Morning Breakfast & Worship with Shelter Guests

Friday, December 25, 6:15 a.m.

A joyous morning of bread-breaking,
community-building, and worship.
Sign up to bring a breakfast casserole on the bulletin board outside Tull.
Breakfast casserole recipes posted there and on the website.

More details at www.cpcatlanta.org/advent