

A SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

THE ANTHEM **“Sleep, Little Holy Child”** Mark L. Williams
Harmony

***THE CAROL** **“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!

***SENDING FORTH**

Treasure these words:

Christ is born.
Light has shined,
and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Ponder these thoughts:

Christ is born.
Love has come.
Salvation is given to all!

***CLOSING CAROL**

JACOB’S LADDER

He has come, God’s Son, our Savior; He has come God’s Son, our Savior;
He has come, God’s Son, our Savior: Jesus Christ, the Lord.

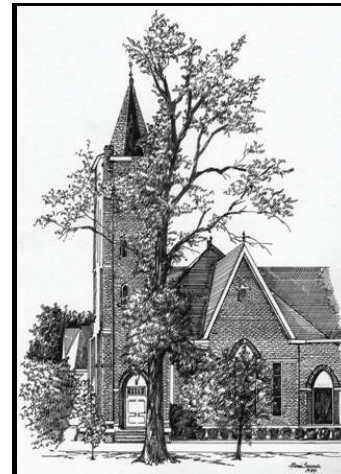
***CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Franklin D. Ashdown

“The First Noel” (Carillon-Sortie)

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Rev. Mary Virginia Taylor..... RESIDENT BISHOP Joann Hart FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Rev. Dickie Knight DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT Rev. J. Leon Newton RETIRED UMC MINISTER
Rev. Dr. Ben Michael Gafford SENIOR PASTOR
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First United Methodist Church
Bennettsville, South Carolina
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2011 ~ 6:00 p.m.



Please enter the Sanctuary this evening
in quiet reverence.

Allow the music to lead your heart to the manger.

The Church In Worship



OPENING VOLUNTARIES **“Christmas Collage”** David Carnes
Ivy McLaurin, Pianist

“Silent Night, Holy Night” arr. Michael Helman
The Chancel Ringers

***PROCESSIONAL** **“Once in Royal David’s City”** IRBY
Stanza 1: Phyllis Hubbard, soprano
Stanza 2: Choir
Stanza 3: Congregation and Choir
And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

THE NATIVITY Luke 2: 1-20

THE ANTHEM **“Once, in Bethlehem”** Donald McCullough
The Chancel Choir

SOLO **“My Grown-Up Christmas List”** Foster/Jenner
Heather Moody

***THE SCRIPTURE** John 1: 1-14
This scripture is read from the midst of the congregation, symbolizing
The Word made flesh, and dwelling among us.

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

SOLO **“O Holy Night”** Adolphe Adam
Scott Johnson, vocalist

THE WORD PROCLAIMED Rev. Dr. Ben Gafford

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to give our thanks and praise for the greatest Christmas gift of all, the Christ Child, humbly born in a stable in the most humble of little towns, Bethlehem.

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.

We give thanks that the Christ Child comes as a gift, not just to kings, nobles, and priests, but to everyone — even the poorest of the poor, like the shepherds of the field.

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

O Lord, as you bless these elements of bread and wine, making them be for us the body and blood of Our Savior, may we not forget that the Christ Child was born to this end, to one day sacrifice himself on a Cross of wood to redeem our souls. It causes one to wonder, to ponder, how anyone could bear such love.

“I Wonder as I Wander” — solo by Hampton Hubbard

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION arr. Wilbur Held

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”