

Virtual Christmas Eve Service
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
Thursday, December 24th

Christmas Prelude: *The First Nowell*

Text and Music: English carol

Sung by Pentatonix: <https://youtu.be/0u5UvnKICTA>

Welcome and Announcements (at the end of the bulletin)

Call to Worship:

Come and see!

We hear the call of Love, ringing in our ears.

Come and see!

We see the light of stars and candles, leading the way.

Come and see!

We long for a sign, an experience, to know God face to face.

Come and see!

We come, to be part of God's story of Love.

Hymn # 133 *O Come All Ye Faithful*, verses 1, 3, & 4

Text and Music: John Francis Wade, 1743

No Zoom? Sing along with Carrie Underwood: <https://youtu.be/y8oc1ovRsnk>

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 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!

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

(Light the first four Advent Candles)

The Advent Candles of hope, waiting, watching, and witnessing have been lighted and now the Advent Season's grand climax has come. Let us light the Christ Candle remembering the birth of the baby Jesus over two thousand years ago and celebrating the birth of Christ once more in our lives and in our world on this holy night.

Our wait is over, the Christ-child is here! Long we have waited, long we have watched for his coming. God is *not* satisfied to remain apart from us, God must be one among us. We are God's people, shepherd of God's



Karl Campbell

Bobby Taylor

Marie Cook

flock, children of God's redeeming. We light this candle to represent Christ's presence, his everlasting reign. We give thanks to God for the fulfillment in Christ of hope, peace, joy, and love.

(Light the Christ Candle)

Hymn # 134: *Joy to the World*, verses 1, 2, & 4

Bobby Taylor

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: George Frederick Handel, 1742

No Zoom? Sing along with Soundiva Classical Choir: <https://youtu.be/GGyYAzrctzk>

Joy to the world, the Lord has come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

The Christmas Story: Gospel of Luke, Chapter two, beginning with verse one:

Karl Campbell

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.



And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.
*The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.***

Solo: *O Holy Night* sung by Mel Wilhite

No Zoom? Listen to Carrie Underwood: <https://youtu.be/sWGMNXCy5Co>

Christmas Meditation (on the second Zoom link)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Christmas Prayer:



Almighty God,
we have been watching and waiting
for your hope, your joy, your love
to shine in the darkness of this world.
We know that your light is still shining forth,
banishing the shadows of this world
and guiding us back home,
to your Life and your Love.

You did not come into this world
in a show of power and glory.
You did not shine forth for all of creation to behold.
A tiny spark –
a newborn baby,
visible to parents and curious animals.
A host of angels –
away from the populated areas,
singing to migrant workers.
A sparkling star –
guiding foreigners to see what neighbors could not.



Open our hearts, merciful God,
to the sparks of your presence still in this world.
Open our eyes,
that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places,
and among the least likely of people.

We lift up to you this holy night,
all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit,
all who are grieving over the loss of a loved one,
all who are lonely, missing family and friends
who cannot physically be with them this Christmas.
We pray for all who are caring for the sick and dying,
and for all who are on the front lines
caring for all of us in so many critical ways.
We take a moment to name those in our hearts this night...

Christ, our Lord and Savior,
kindle again your spark within us,
that together we may shine forth your light,
that we might help to banish the shadows of this world,
we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle:
Emmanuel is in this world,
God is with us, now and evermore. Amen.



Hymn # 113 *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Bobby Taylor

Text and Music: French carol

No Zoom? Sing along with 233 singers and ASL interpreters from 43 countries under the direction of David Wesley: <https://youtu.be/ywVUSj39hoc>

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

Christmas Offering Invitation:

Marie Cook

Our offering on this Holy Night is going to Volunteer Avery County to assist with heating oil and electricity during the long cold winter months for our neighbors in need, especially the elderly.

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Almighty God, we give thanks for the surpassing gift of your Beloved, the Christ. As we welcome him again into our lives, we commit ourselves to the work of his kingdom. Receive the gifts we offer as signs of our commitment to live according to Jesus' good news, by which we are redeemed. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn # 122 *Silent Night*, verses 1, 2, & 3

Bobby Taylor

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

No Zoom? Sing along with Winchester Cathedral Choir: <https://youtu.be/iRZOv31n1sY>

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 dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth; Jesus Lord, at thy birth.



Christmas Benediction:

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Come to us, Lord Jesus,
be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.
May the light of your life be kindled in us,
and lead us to the shining truth,
of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

Postlude: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Sung by Celtic Woman: <https://youtu.be/Xw38pGhPXIk>

Welcome to this evening's virtual Christmas Eve Service. We had hoped to be outside on our church grounds bundled up around a fire singing carols, listening to the ancient Christmas story, offering our gifts for our neighbors in need, lighting our candles and singing "Silent Night." However, the weather did not cooperate. So, we get to share our Crossnore Christmas Eve Service with all of you, near and far and we are delighted! Before you begin the Zoom recording of the service, print the worship service attachment in black ink, and you will be able to participate!

Our Christmas Eve Offering is still being collected. Every dollar goes to Volunteer Avery County for heating oil and electricity for our neighbors in need, especially our elderly. If you would like to contribute, make your check out to Crossnore Presbyterian Church, designate it for the Christmas Eve Offering, and mail it to: Crossnore Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 386, Crossnore, NC 28616.

Pastor Kathy and the Church Session send our blessings of peace and joy as we worship the baby Jesus born over two thousand years ago and Christ the Lord who comes to us this Holy Season in ordinary and surprising ways. Look, listen, and share the Light and Love of Christ with those who are living in darkness in so many ways. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The CPC Virtual Worship Service will be sent via email on Sunday, December 27. Rev. Maggie Lauterer is our guest preacher. On Sunday, January 3, the virtual Sunday Service will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The 2020 Fall/Winter Crossnore Chronicle is included as an attachment. Fred and Betty Redman France, the editors, have written some very inspiring and timely articles as a special Christmas gift to the congregation. Take a few minutes to read the Chronicle; it may stir some memories and offer some new ways to live in Christ in 2021.

The Church Office will be closed from December 25 through January 4. You can call the church office and leave a message; we will be checking the voice mail periodically. If there is an emergency, please call Pastor Kathy, 828-260-2512.

