

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 24, 2006

11:00 AM

*A nursery is available during the service. An usher will be happy to assist you.
Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available upon request from an usher.*

PRELUDE *(Please take this time to silently prepare yourself to worship God.)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT *Sussex Carol* arr. Niedmann

Chris Patterson, Soloist

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

the Shriver Family

CALL TO WORSHIP **Psalm 80:3-7**

Melanie Bolender, Liturgist

Liturgist: Restore us, O God;

People: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Liturgist: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

People: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

Liturgist: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Liturgist: Let us Pray.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN No. 57 *The Snow Lay on the Ground*

VENITE ADOREMUS

*CONFESSION OF SIN *(In Unison)*

God of all hope, we rejoice in your sure promise to send us a Ruler and Shepherd. He lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry; yet we strive to promote ourselves and guarantee our own welfare. We have denied his power, and disbelieved your promise. In mercy, do not scatter us in our pride; do not send us away empty. Teach us to embrace your way with us, your will for us, your Spirit in us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Let each worshipper pray silently.)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI *(The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 579)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a (Pew Bible, OT Section, page 816)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *As Lately We Watched*

arr. Black

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10 (Pew Bible, NT Section page 204)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN No. 600 *Song of Mary*

MAGNIFICAT

SERMON LESSON: Luke 1:39-55 (Pew Bible, NT Section page 52)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Salvation for the Lowly"

Rev. Jonathan Fettig

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – *(In Unison)* Apostles' Creed (traditional) *The Presbyterian Hymnal p. 14*

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *Behold, That Star* Arr. Page

Chris Patterson, Soloist

*PRESENTATION, The Doxology (The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 592)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN No. 31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

***Those who are able, please stand**

MUSICAL NOTES

The Introit, *Sussex Carol*, has also been known as *On Christmas Night True Christians Sing* and *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*. The words were first published by Irish bishop Luke Wadding, in a work called *Small Garland of Pious and Godly Songs*, and it is not clear whether Wadding wrote the song, or was recording an earlier composition. Both the text and the tune to which it is now sung were discovered and written down by [Cecil Sharp](#) and [Ralph Vaughan Williams](#), who heard it being sung by a Harriet Verrall of Monk's Gate, Sussex (hence "Sussex Carol"). The tune to which it is sung today is the one Williams took down from Mrs. Verrall and published in 1919.

On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring.

On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring.

News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad?

Then why should we on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad,

When from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace, Then life and health come in its place.

When sin departs before His grace, Then life and health come in its place.

Angels and mortals with joy may sing, All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night.

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night:

"Glory to God and peace on earth, Now and for evermore, Amen!"

About the Anthem, *As Lately We Watched*: From Austria comes this traditional carol, sung to a tune similar to the old English, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. As with such other carols as *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Angels from the Realms of Glory*, and *While Shepherd Watched Their Flocks by Night*, the song tells the story of the Nativity from the point of view of the shepherds near Bethlehem who follow the path of the star, hear the angels proclaim the birth of the newborn King and finally see the Infant in His manger-throne.

As lately we watched o'er our fields thro' the night, A star there was seen of such glorious light;

All thro' the night the angels did sing, Sweet carols in praise of the birth of a King.

A King of such beauty was ne'er before seen, And Mary, His Mother, so like to a queen.

Blest be the hour, welcome the morn, For Christ, our dear Saviour, on earth now is born.

His throne is a manger, His court is a loft, But troops of bright angels, in lays sweet and soft,

Him they proclaim, our Christ by name, And earth, sky, and air straight are filled with His fame.

Then, shepherds, be joyful, salute your liege King, Let hills ring and dales to the song that ye sing;

Blest be the hour, welcome the morn, For Christ our dear Saviour, on earth now is born.