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# A Service of Lessons & Carols

First Presbyterian Church  
Durham, North Carolina

December 14, 2025

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

**A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

*(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Mindy Douglas

**PRELUDE**

*I Wonder as I Wander*

Appalachian Carol  
arr. Benjamin Barker

**ADVENT WREATH LITURGY**

Sarah Cunningham, Zack Czajkowski (with Archie)

Leader: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again,  
we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save.  
So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah,  
who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

**All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."**

Leader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait  
and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

*The third candle of the Advent wreath is lit.*

**\*HYMN NO. 140**

*Once in Royal David's City*

*Irby*

*(Please be seated)*

**THE BIDDING PRAYER**

Esther Hethcox

Beloved in Christ, during this Advent season it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves  
to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,  
and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God  
from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child;  
and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs  
of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save;  
for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;  
the immigrants, the sick, and them that mourn;  
the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light,  
that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh,  
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven,  
in the words that Christ himself has taught us:

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

## THE LORDS PRAYER *(in unison)*

**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.**

## FIRST LESSON

The First Sin  
(Genesis 3:8-13; 22-24)

Josie Bacon

## \*CONFESSION OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us,**

**that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

## ANTHEM

*Wexford Carol*

Trad. Irish, 12<sup>th</sup> Cent.  
arr. Elaine Hagenberg

*Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well, and bear in mind,  
what our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.*

*With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;  
in Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs, and feeding sheep;  
to whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.*

*"Prepare and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem. Be not afraid.*

*For there you'll find this happy morn a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,  
and as God's angels had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.*

*Within a manger he was laid, and by his side the virgin maid  
attending on the Lord of life, who came to earth to end all strife.*

*With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;*

*in Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born. (Sweet Jesus born.)*

## SECOND LESSON

The Peace that Christ Will Bring Is Foreshown  
(Isaiah 11:1-4a; 6-10)

Carlo Diy

## HYMN NO. 129

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*Es Ist Ein 'Ros'*

## THIRD LESSON

The Prince of Peace Is Foretold  
(Isaiah 9:2b-7)

Izzy Allison-Pleasants

**SOLO***Peace on Earth*Errollyn Wallen  
Leigh Wynkoop, soloist

*And snow falls down on me. Peace on earth. The night is dark and soft. Peace on earth.  
The lights that sparkle in the square, the smoke that lingers in the air. Peace on earth.  
And grace falls down on me. Peace on earth. The dark will turn aside. Peace on earth.  
The fires that burn in every hearth do sing our praise of Christmas past. Peace on earth.  
Ah, hear them singing. Peace on earth.*

**FOURTH LESSON**Jesus Is Born in Bethlehem  
(Luke 2:1-7)

Noah Dillon

**ANTHEM***Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*Robert Boyce  
arr. Shawn Kirchner

*O beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shining afar through shadows dim,  
giving a light for those who long have gone.  
And guiding the wisemen on their way into the place where Jesus lay,  
beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on.*

*(Refrain) Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine upon us until the glory dawn.  
Give us thy light to light the way into the land of perfect day.  
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on.*

*O beautiful Star, the hope of light, guiding the pilgrim through the night,  
over the mountain till the break of dawn.  
And into the light of perfect day, it will give out a lovely ray,  
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on. (Refrain)*

*O beautiful Star, the hope of rest for the redeemed, the good and blest,  
yonder in glory when the crown is won.  
For Jesus is now that Star divine, brighter and brighter He will shine,  
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on. (Refrain)*

**FIFTH LESSON**The Shepherds Go Unto the Manger  
(Luke 2:8-20)

Lesley Curtis

**\*HYMN NO. 145***What Child Is This*

Greensleeves

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**Invitation to Give  
Offertory Anthem*Noel*John Weicher  
English Folk Melody  
arr. Karen Marrolli

*Noel, noel! The angels tell the story of this night,  
when Emmanuel came with us to dwell: the Christ, the Child of Light.  
He was not born in gilded halls befitting of his reign,  
but rather in a lowly stall to feel our human pain.*

*(Refrain) All glory be to God on high! We heed the angels' call,  
and joyfully return their cry: Sing peace to one and all.*

Noel, noel! Their praises swell o'er hill and over sea.  
O hear the bells, o'er hill and dell, that sing of jubilee!  
The Lord has come to show us how iniquity might cease.  
O let us be your servants now, and walk the paths of peace. (Refrain)

Noel, noel! O come and quell the fear of earthly care.  
O teach us well, Emmanuel, to nourish and to share,  
to grasp each far and distant hand and to knock down every wall,  
till peace and light reign o'er the land, and love embraces all. (Refrain)

<b>SIXTH LESSON</b>	John Unfolds the Great Mystery of the Incarnation (John 1:1-18)	Mindy Douglas
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<b>*HYMN NO. 130</b>	<i>Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light</i>	<i>Ermuntre Dich</i>
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<b>PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING</b>		Mindy Douglas
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Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray

**All:** God of glory, we thank you that you have given us minds to know you,  
hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise.

Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory  
and worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<b>*HYMN NO. 113</b>	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	<i>Gloria</i>
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<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Mindy Douglas
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<b>*POSTLUDE</b>	<i>Declamation on "Gloria"</i>	Michael Bedford
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### *Happening Today*

**Children's Choir** will meet in the Christian Education Building immediately following service for about 20 minutes.

Join us for our annual **Christmas Pageant** (at 5:30pm sharp in the Sanctuary) and **Potluck Supper** followed by singing **Christmas Carols** at 5:45pm.

Today is the last day to drop off presents for the children who have been intimately affected by gun violence. The children range from 3-16, all genders. Visit the small Christmas tree in the lobby and pick a child to support this Christmas. Gift cards are welcome, they are appreciated for teens and kids with special needs. Contact **Susan Dunlap**, [sjd4@duke.edu](mailto:sjd4@duke.edu), for more information.



Sign In

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us.  
Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning the QR code  
to the left. For online giving, scan the QR code to the right.



Donate Online

We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Jesus Christ. First Presbyterian welcomes individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the ***Friendship Pad***, pass it along the pew, and **then return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

***The Advent Wreath*** is a gift to the church in celebration of the season from ***Alice Raney***.

***Advent paraments:*** In 2012, First Presbyterian Church commissioned internationally known fiber-artist Laurie Wohl to design and create two paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. The Advent text on the pulpit parament, in Hebrew and English, is from Isaiah 12:3: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” The Advent text on the lectern parament is from Luke 1:78-79: “The dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to guide our feet into the way of peace.” We are grateful that the bequest of Anne ‘St. Clair’ Williams made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

***We thank our guest musicians*** for their contributions to this service: ***Benjamin Barker***, hammered dulcimer; ***Noelle Barr***, violin; and ***Deborah Coclanis***, piano. These musicians were made possible by a generous donation to the Restricted Music Fund in honor of beloved choir member, Dewey Lawson.

***Today’s bulletin cover*** was created by ***Izzy Allison-Pleasants***. Izzy's artwork includes imagery from a variety of today's Scripture lessons.

***Childcare:*** A staffed nursery and children’s playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. ***Activity bags and baskets*** are available in the foyer for children. Please return them to the foyer at the end of worship.

***Restroom locations:*** To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the first and second floors of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

***Portions of today’s worship resources*** were reprinted from *The Book of Common Worship* (2018). Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

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## Upcoming Community Events

*Many of our events are posted in the bi-weekly newsletter. You may read past newsletters and join our mailing list at <https://firstpres-durham.org/weekly-newsletter/>*



***Yoga*** is offered at FPC on Mondays at 4:30pm (vinyasa flow class), and Fridays at 10:30am (chair yoga class). Contact ***Jane Wettach*** for more information at [janebettach@gmail.com](mailto:janebettach@gmail.com).

***Our Christmas Eve service of Communion & Candlelight*** will be held at 5:00pm on December 24. As many guests are expected, we encourage those who are able to park in adjacent lots so our guests with limited mobility might use the main lot. The offering that night will support ***Families Moving Forward*** and ***Welcome Baby***.

## *~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~*

**Condolences** - We extend our care and concern to:

*Lanny Pratt* upon the death of his cousin, *Gina Gilmore*.

*Chris Sims, Kathy Coville, Gretchen and Karl Sims* upon the death of Chris' mother, *Kathy Sims*.

### **We remember in prayer:**

*Jeanne Hervey* is recovering from a fall.

*Phyllis Verhey* is recovering from hand surgery.

*Donna Holladay*, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley, is in the Pavilion at Croasdaile Village.

*Marie Maly*, sister of Barbara Fish.

*Adrienne Allison*

*Tony Brown*

*Jean Cary*

*Paul Cornsweet*

*Sam Crabtree*

*Susan Cyr*

*Barbara Gerwe*

*Joe Harvard*

*Kerry Holbrook*

*Lee House*

*Ann Huff*

*Harriett Mitchell*

*Franzi Rokoske*

*Alfred Tisdale*

*David Verner*

### **Care Communities:**

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Carol Wills*

Brookdale Senior Living: *Debbie Mathews*

Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*

Pruitt Health - Durham: *Fred Callaway*

Southpoint Atria: *Ginny Widmark*

*Madge McKeithen*

### **Family and Friends of the Congregation**

*Julia Allen*, grandmother of Amy Wilson

*Steve Blackwood*, father of Jeff Blackwood

*Evan Breyer*, grandson of friends of Jo Ann Moore

*Francisca Cristobal*, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood

*Kim Cummings*, father of Drew Cummings

*Denise Duffy*, sister of Andy Henry

*Linda Foster-Momsen*, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

*Cheryl Fowler*, friend of Cheri Reece

*Jennifer Hervey*, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

*Katie Jackson*, wife of Matthew Hirsch

*Donna Johnson*, mother of Ann Huff

*Sandra Mikush*, mother of Katie Fogleman

*Martha Neece*, sister-in-law of Vernon & Beth Neece

*Kelly Nelson*, daughter of Conrad and Linda Carter

*Bill Prochaska*, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

*Wu-Chou Su*, father of Claire Su

*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

# 113 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



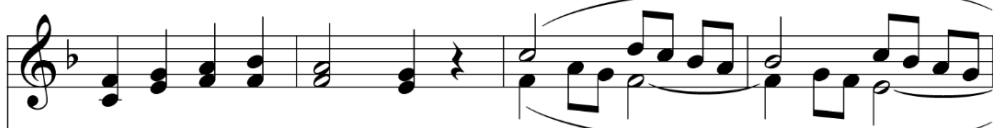
and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad-some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.



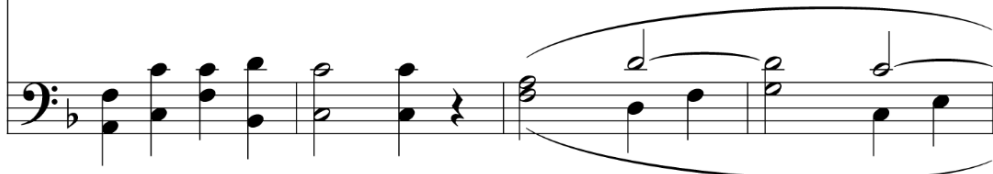
*Refrain*



Glo - - - ri - a



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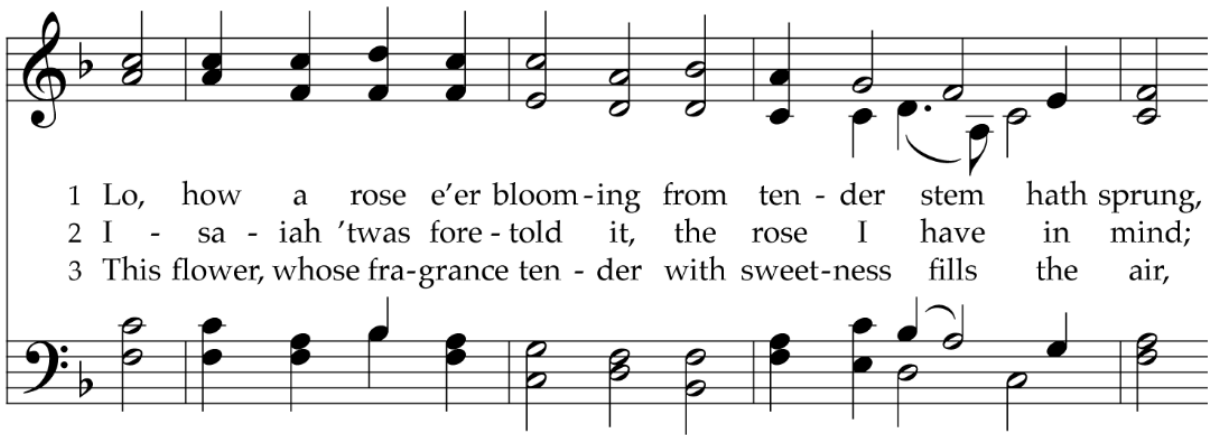


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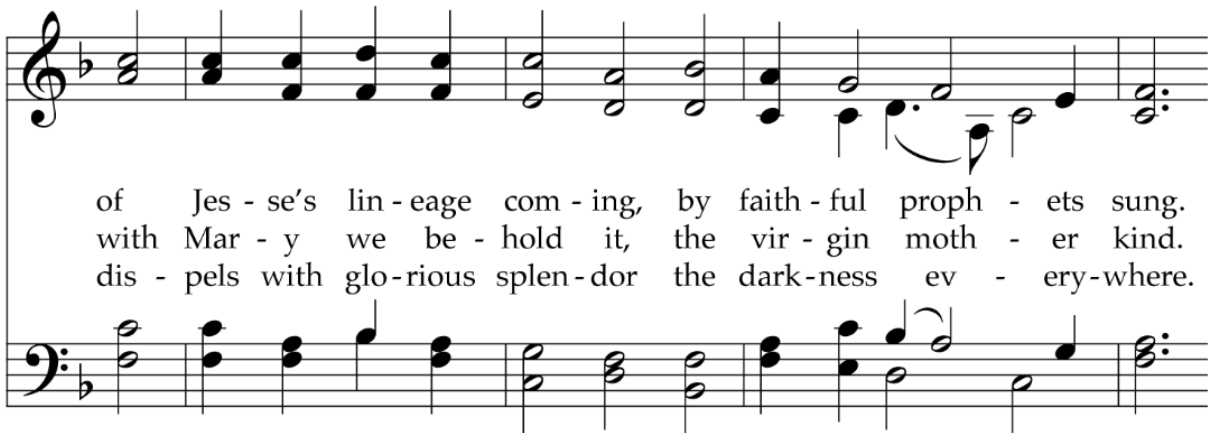




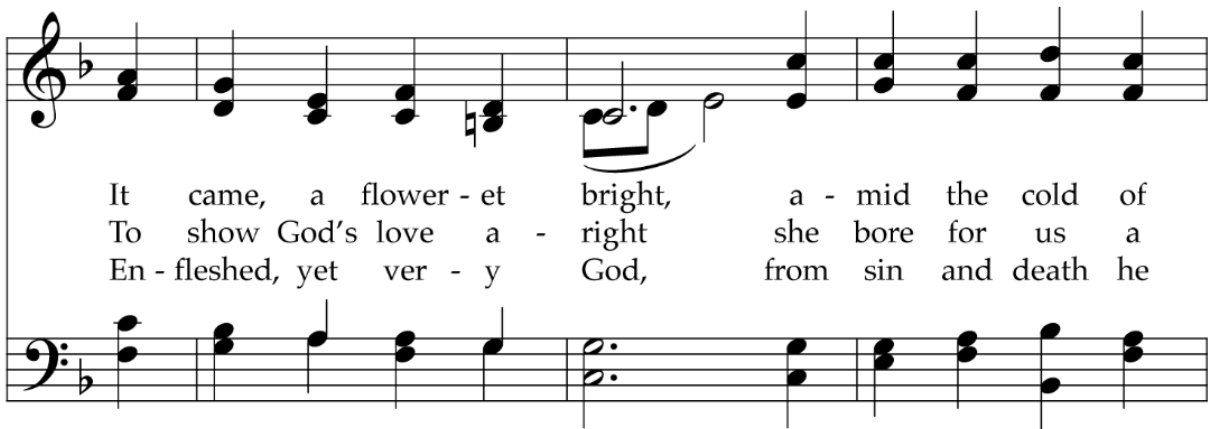
# Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129



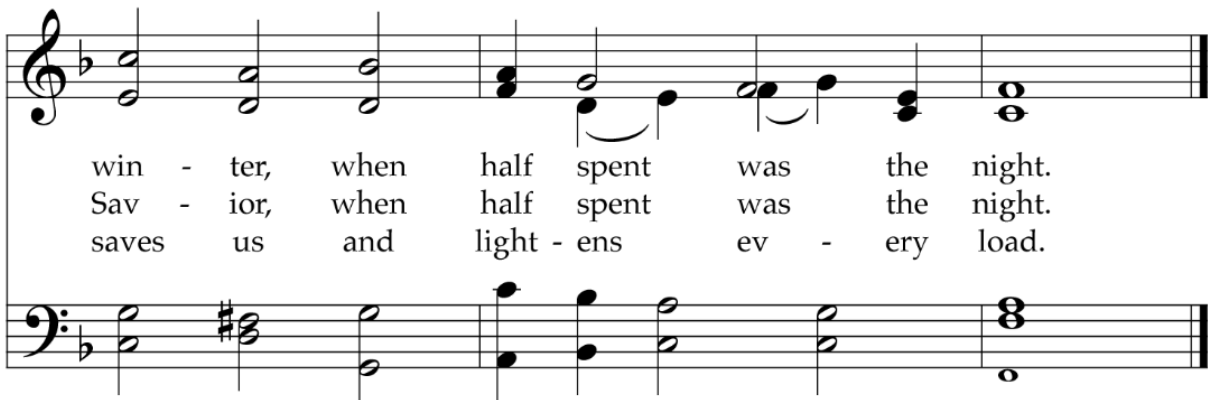
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;  
3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,



of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.  
with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.  
dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery-where.



It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of  
To show God's love a - right she bore for us a  
En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he



win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.  
saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

# 130 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Break forth, O beau-teous heaven-ly light, and ush-er in the


morn-ing. You shep-herds, shud-der not with fright, but hear the

an-gel's warn-ing. This child, now weak in in-fan-cy, our

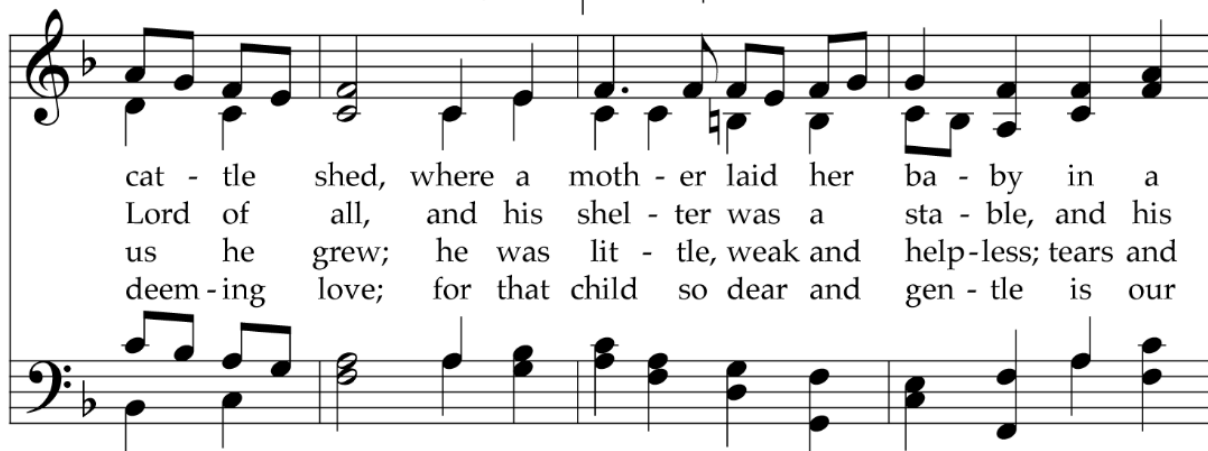
con-fi-dence and joy shall be, the power of Sa-tan

break-ing, our peace e-ter-nal mak-ing.

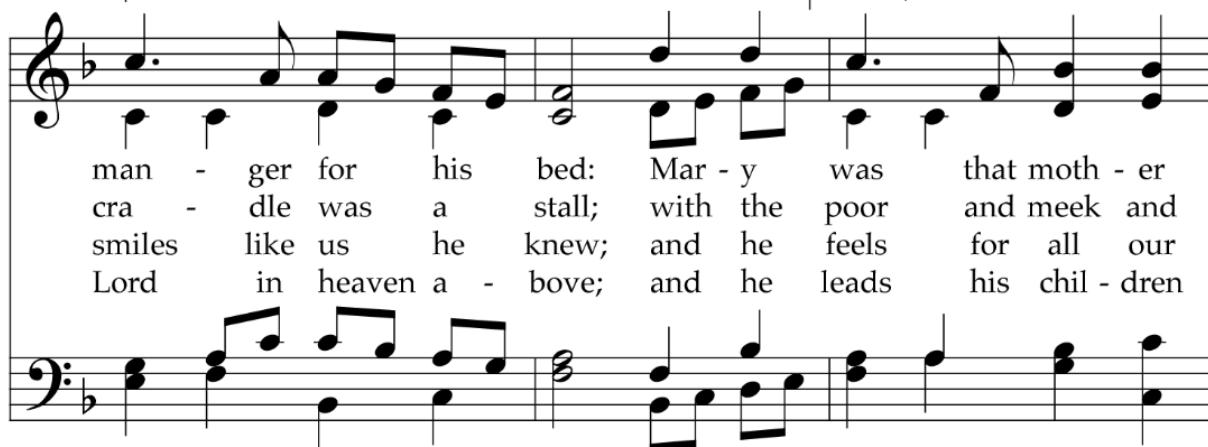
# Once in Royal David's City 140



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -



cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and  
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our



man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and  
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our  
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren



mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 on to the place where he is gone.



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



## This Week at a Glance!

**Later Today**  
*Newsletter Deadline*

**Following Worship**  
Children's Music:  
ages 3-5 (room 205), ages 6-11 (choir room)

**5:30 PM**  
Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary)

**5:45 PM**  
Potluck & Carols (Watts-Hill Hall)

### **Monday, December 15**

**11:30 AM**  
Coalition for Affordable Housing & Transit (Watts-Hill Hall)

**1:30 PM**  
Worship Planning (Pastor's office)

**4:30 PM**  
Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)

**6:00 PM**  
Property Committee (room 205)

**7:00 PM**  
The Somethings Christmas Prayer Service (Sanctuary)

### **Tuesday, December 16**

*Newsletter Release*

**10:00 AM**  
You Are Not Alone (Wilson Parlor)

### **Wednesday, December 17**

**1:00 PM**  
All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)

**6:00 PM**  
Stewardship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

**7:00 PM**  
Chancel Choir (choir room)

### **Thursday, December 18**

**7:00 PM**  
Nominating Committee (Zoom)

### **Friday, December 19**

**10:30 AM**  
Yoga (room 201)

### **Saturday, December 20**

### **Sunday, December 21**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Joy Offering*

**9:45 AM**  
Faith Formation  
(Classes available for adults, youth and children.)

**11:00 AM**  
Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching

**12:15 PM**  
Fellowship Committee (Wilson Parlor)

**4:45 PM**  
Youth Group: Outdoor Ice Skating (parking lot)

## CHURCH STAFF

*Shakira Bethea*, Church Administrator  
*Tom Bloom*, Business Administrator  
*Lenore Champion*, Children's Ministry Director  
*Vernon Cooper*, Sexton  
*Mindy Douglas*, Pastor/Head of Staff  
*Susan Dunlap*, Parish Associate



*Omar Guess, Sr.*, Sunday Morning Sexton  
*Joseph Harvard*, Pastor Emeritus  
*Esther Hethcox*, Associate Pastor  
*Sybil King*, Administrative Assistant  
*Kathy Parkins*, Minister of Music  
*John Weicher*, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:  
[office@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:office@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

**305 EAST MAIN STREET    DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701    919.682.5511    ORGANIZED 1871**