

Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (USA)
Clemson, South Carolina

Christmas Eve Communion Service
December 24, 2009, 11:00 pm

399 College Avenue, Clemson, SC 29631
864-654-2061; www.forthillchurch.org

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude: "I Wonder as I Wander"

John Jacob Niles

Chiming the Hour

Choral Introit: *A Stable Lamp is Lighted*

Hurd

+Hymn #31: "O Come All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jake McKinney and Rose Marie McDonald

Words of Gathering and Welcome

Laura Conrad

The Prayer of Invocation (in unison) and "The Lord's Prayer" (page 16)

God of the Universe, tonight heaven and earth meet. Justice and Righteousness kiss. Tonight in this stable you keep your promise to meet your people. For unto us a Savior is born, a Son is given. We thank you for sending a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, a Prince of Peace. Tonight all sanctuaries and houses of worship are Bethlehem- an out of the way place. Holy God, you show up and surprise us still in unexpected places. Meet us here now as you promised you would even as we expect to greet you this most holy night...Our Father...

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

The Christmas Story

The Annunciation: Luke 1:26-35

Hymn #53 "What Child is This"

GREENSLEEVES

The Birth: Luke 2:1-7

Hymn #25 "Away in a Manger"

MUELLER

The Adoration of the Shepherds: Luke 2:8-20

Anthem: *Light One Candle*

Sleeth

Communion Meditation: *'Tis the Night before Christmas*

(A Christmas Eve story by C. Edward Bowen)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+Hymn 23: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

+Affirmation of Faith: *A Declaration of Faith (IV, 1-22, God sent the promised Deliverer to his people*

One: Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

All: We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated.

One: The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

All: Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended. Thanks be to God!

The Offering of One's Self and One's Gifts to God

Mary Gause

(The "Joy Gift Offering" will be received at this time.)

Offertory: "In Dulci Jubilo"

Hermann Schroeder

+The Doxology (#592)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

(Served tonight by Intinction- coming forward to take bread and dip in the cup)

The Words of Invitation

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Institution

The Communion

Hymn #36: "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

Communion Anthem: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

+Hymn # 31: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

+The Lighting of Individual Christmas Candles

+Hymn #60: "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.

+A Christmas Benediction

+Postlude: "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

Sussex Carol

(As the Sanctuary lights come up please extinguish your candles.)

+ Indicates that all who are able may stand

(For the 2009 "Joy Gift" offering, please make check payable to Fort Hill Church and mark it for "Joy Gift.")

To Our Guests and Visitors: We are so glad you have chosen to celebrate this holy night with us and to share in the Lord's Supper together. If you are new to the area or do not have a church home, we invite you to return again to worship here. We would love to share with you our mission and ministry. We are called as a community of disciples who seek to share God's love in this community and in God's world. Join us on the journey!

Joy Gift Offering

We receive this offering at Christmas. 50% of the Joy Gift offering assists church workers, missionaries, pastors, and their families in times of crisis through the Presbyterian Board of Pensions. The other 50% of the offering also supports our Presbyterian Racial/Ethnic colleges.

Worship- The Stories of the Christmas Carols, Sunday, December 27 at 10:30 am

This Sunday we will gather for worship at one service in the Sanctuary at 10:30. Come celebrate the birth of Christ as we sing carols and hear the stories behind the songs.

Thanks to all who have helped to make our Advent Season so memorable this year. Too many folks helped to mention by name, but we certainly have many willing helpers among our congregation and we are grateful for their assistance. We have angels right here at Fort Hill it seems!

Worship Leaders: Laura Conrad, Pastor, Mary Gause, Associate Pastor, and Garland Gravely

Organist: Judy Bonham

Choir Director: Bill Diekhoff

Chancel Choir: Mary Barron, Dianne Diekhoff, Diane Egan, Marlene, Nicholas, Rameth Owens, Vernie Roberts, Ette Ruppert, Cathy Spragins, Carol Todd, Mary Coronato, Kathy Hughes, Barbara Fox, Laura Lefevre, Monica McGregor, Shirley Muzii, Millie Poole, Evelyn Rabey, Beth Wilkinson, Jacquie Worley, Chip Egan, Garland Gravely, Jim Roberts, John Sherman, Charles Barron, Brian d'Entremont, George Dunkelberg, Bob Folsom, Randall Poole.