

# The Worship of God

A Service of Carols, Candles, and Communion

December 24, 2006  
5:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church  
Savannah, Georgia

†The Organ Prelude - "Of the Father's Love Begotten" . . . . . Charles Callahan  
Rev. James Richardson

The Lighting of the Christ Candle . . . . . Drew and Melissa Blazek  
The Choral Introit - "An Advent Carol" . . . . . Ellen Gilson Voth  
Carol Anne Richardson, Alto Earnest Murphy, Tenor

*This Advent moon shines cold and clear, these Advent nights are long;  
Our lamps have burned year after year and still their flame is strong.  
"Watchman, what of the night?" we cry, heartsick with hope deferred:  
"No speaking signs are in the sky," is still the watchman's word.  
One to another hear them speak, the patient virgins wise:  
"Surely he is not far to seek, all night we watch and rise."  
"The days are evil, looking back, the coming days are dim;  
Yet count we not his promise slack but watch and wait for him."  
Weeping, we hold him fast tonight; we will not let him go  
Till daybreak smite our wearied sight and summer smite the snow:  
Then figs shall bud, and dove with dove shall coo the livelong day;  
Then he shall say, "Arise, my love, my fair one, come away."  
(The text is by Christina Rossetti.)*

The Invocation . . . . . Rev. Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

The Lord's Prayer

†\*The Hymn No. 41 - "O Come, All Ye Faithful" . . . . . ADESTE FIDELES

\*The Affirmation of Faith

***We believe in God the Father  
who sent John the Baptist as a voice crying out in the wilderness,  
who calls all persons to repentance and faith,  
who prepares the way for the coming of his Son.***

***We believe in Jesus Christ our Lord  
whose first Advent was announced by angelic messengers,  
whose birth at Bethlehem occurred among throngs of humble travelers,  
whose second coming will be in power and glory.***

***We believe in the Spirit of God  
who preserved the Christ child from the wrath of King Herod,  
who directed Wise Men from the East to the baby Jesus,  
who guides all of us in the Way.***

\*The Gloria Patri . . . . . REGENT SQUARE

***All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship:  
Light of lights, our Star, our Sun.***

The Anthem - "Chill of the Nightfall" . . . . . K. Lee Scott

*Chill of the nightfall, lamps in the windows, letting their light fall clear on the snow;  
Bitter December bids us remember Christ in the stable long, long ago.  
Silence of midnight, voices of angels, singing to bid night yield to the dawn;  
Darkness is ended, sinners befriended, where in the stable Jesus is born.  
Splendor of starlight high on the hillside, faint is the far light burning below;  
Kneeling before him shepherds adore him, Christ in the stable long, long ago.  
Glory of daybreak! Sorrows and shadows, suddenly they break forth into morn;  
Sing out and tell now all shall be well now, for in the stable Jesus is born!  
(The text is by Timothy Dudley-Smith.)*

The First Lesson - Isaiah 9:2-7

The Duet - "The Christ Child" . . . . . test and music by Peter Cornelius  
Margaret Hardy, Soprano Earnest Murphy, Tenor

*That once the Christ child dwelled here, come the glad tidings every year:  
Come from the starry spheres above, filling the world with joy and love;  
They speak to children of the day, when Christ child in the manger lay:  
Of festive Christmas tree they tell, wake organ chant and pealing bell.  
Christ child comes alike to all, his arms enfold both great and small.  
Then give him thanks and bless his name, to thee and all, the Christ child came.*

The Call to Prayer

The Silent Prayers

The Prayers of the People

†\*The Hymn No. 56 - "The First Nowell" . . . . . THE FIRST NOWELL

\*The Offertory Sentence and Prayer

The Receiving of an Offering for the J .C. Lewis Health Center of Union Mission

The Organ Solo - "Silent Night, Holy Night" . . . . . Charles Callahan

The Gospel Lesson - Luke 2:1-7

The Response to the Lessons

Minister: *This is the written Word of the Lord.*

Congregation: ***Thanks be to God!***

The Meditation - "God's Surprise: A Child from Mary" . . . . . Dr. John Finley

The Approach to the Table - "All Is Ready Now" . . . . . text and music by Jay Beech  
Liz Palles, Soprano

*"Quietly into the stable where the Savior sleeping lies,  
We can go, for all are welcome: shepherd, angel, poor, and wise.  
What we have we bring and offer, earthly gifts for child divine,  
Giving that which we were given, fruits of harvest, bread and wine.  
'Cross the threshold of creation, Jesus comes to dwell with us,  
As he was in the beginning, evermore God's gift of love.  
Now he calls us to the table, gift of love to bleed and to die;  
Manger here becomes an altar, stable Lamb is sacrificed.  
Now enthroned as King of heaven, blazing glory like the sun:  
In his hands are power and justice, on his lips are peace and love.  
As our gifts are turned to ashes, falling down in awe we bow,  
Empty-handed, we adore him, "Come, for all is ready now."*

The Celebration of Holy Communion

During the serving of the bread - “Little One, Sleep” . . . . . Edmund Waters  
Carol Anne Richardson, Alto

During the serving of the cup - “Sweet Little Jesus Boy” . . . . . Robert Mac Gimsey  
Earnest Murphy, Tenor

The Lighting of the Candles

The Carol - “Silent Night, Holy Night” . . . . . STILLE NACHT

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round you 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.*

\*The Recessional Anthem - “Congregation, Arise” . . . . . Walter W. Schurr  
Please follow the deacons’ directions in exiting the sanctuary.

*Congregation, arise; congregation, arise;  
Go forth this holy night, show forth the heavenly light;  
With the trumpet and the drum proclaim that Jesus Christ is here!  
Shout from the lofty height, shout through the silent night;  
Alleluia, sing alleluia, for Jesus Christ is here!  
Let there be peace on earth and good will toward men;  
In joyful praise, sound the trumpet;  
And with tympanum mysterious to pulse this hallowed night,  
Our praise to God now swelling in song this night.*

\*Sharing the Light with the World (carols sung from the church steps)

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”  
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
“Away in a Manger”  
“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”**

\*The congregation stands with the choir.  
†The ushers will seat those waiting.

**John M. Finley, Senior Minister  
James C. Richardson, Associate Minister  
Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Assistant Minister  
Janis H. Lewis, Youth and Children’s Director**