



# KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 VANCE AVE. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081



## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2024  
11:00 pm

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

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Rev. Dr. David Keck, Pastor Emeritus



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## GREETING

A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE NIGHT

A Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

### Isaiah 9:2-7

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

**T**he people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.  
<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.  
<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

### *Once in Royal David's City*

*Betsy Ellington-Boynton, Bob Boynton, Anne Futterer, Keith Sutton*

IRBY

## SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11-14

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

**T**he grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**L** Word of God, word of life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

**P** The Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

**A**nd it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup>(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup>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:) <sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup>And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**SERMON**

*Pastor John Futterer*

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head, see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

### *The Christmas Creed*

- A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.
- C** I believe in Jesus Christ, and in the beauty of the Gospel that began in Bethlehem. I believe in Him whose spirit glorified a little town; in Him, of whose coming only shepherds saw the sign and for whom the crowded inn could find no room. I believe in Him who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible; in Him whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth. I believe in Him who looked at people and made them see what His love saw in them; in Him who lovingly brought sinners back to purity and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God. I acknowledge the Glory of all that is Christ-like: The steadfastness of friends, the blessedness of homes, the beauty of compassion, the miracle of hearts made kind at Christmas, the courage of those who dare resist all hate and evil. I believe that only by love expressed, shall the earth at length be purified. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- P Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*Each prayer petition will conclude: "God of grace,"*

*The congregation's response is: "receive our prayer."*

- P We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

## SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

- A Following his resurrection, the Lord Jesus breathed peace upon his disciples. We share in this peace of Christ in the Church today. The peace of the Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

*(Especially greet the children and youth.)*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *Sung to the tune of Away in a Manger*

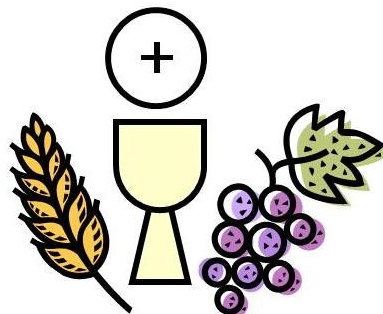
Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!  
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same.  
By mortals and angels Come, Lord, reign alone;  
Oh, hear us and bless us from Heaven's high throne.

The Bread that we yearn for provide us each day;  
As we forgive others our sins take away;  
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;  
From evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the Kingdom; o'er all things You reign.  
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.  
To You be the glory, resounding again.  
From all of creation forever Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. However you choose to receive Communion, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!*





You may receive the Elements as the words are said:  
*The Body of Christ given for you; The Blood of Christ shed for you.*

## CAROLS DURING COMMUNION

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*  
*The First Noel*  
*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**ELW 279**  
**ELW 282**  
**ELW 300**  
**ELW 276**

*The Church will be in darkness except for candles in the chancel. After the blessing, the light is passed from the altar to the congregation. Please handle with care...leaving the lighted candle upright as the flame is passed. The candles will remain lit until the Benediction.*

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*Peace, Peace*  
*Choir*

*Powell-Bock*

## HYMNS

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

*Next page*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**P** All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

## BENEDICTION

**P** A The God of love,  
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
lavish you with grace,  
illumine your path,  
and increase your joy,  
today and always.

**C** Amen.

## DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

*arr. Mary McDonald*



**Please extinguish and place your candles  
in the receptacles in the Narthex.**

**FLOWERS** The Christmas Roses are given in memory of Mike and Terry Fisher, Leigh McDaniel Glass, Janet, and A. L. McDaniel, and to the glory of Christ's birth. Given by their children and grandchildren. Christmas was always their favorite time of year, we miss you all!!!

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