



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

5:00 p.m.

Christ Church, Presbyterian
Evans, Georgia

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2017 • 5:00 p.m.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Luke 2:14

† indicates the congregation standing. • indicates seating of those detained.

• The Prelude Festival Ensemble

Stan Pylant, *Director of Music*

Vivace & Allegro from Christmas ConcertoArcangelo Corelli

O Little Town of Bethlehem & Away In a Manger from Suite of Carolsarr. Leroy Anderson

Hark! the Herald Angels Singarr. Raney / Pylant

The Words of Welcome Mike Boyd, Ruling Elder

† The Proclamation of Messiah's Birth (*congregation reads bold type*) Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

You have multiplied the nation;

You have increased its joy;

They rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest,

As they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,

The rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian.

For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

And every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;

And the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful

Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end,

On the throne of David and over His Kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it

With justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

† • The Carol of Praise No. 208 (Trinity) – O Come, All Ye FaithfulADESTE FIDELES

The Prayer of Invocation

The Prophetic Reading Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One Who is to be ruler in Israel, Whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore He shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth. And He shall be their peace.

† The Carol No. 217 (Trinity) – All My Heart This Night RejoicesJohann Ebeling, arr. Manor

The Solo – O Holy Night arr. David Downes
Brianna Pylant

The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

The offering received tonight will go to the ministry of Jews for Jesus unless designated otherwise.

The Offertory – What Child Is Thisarr. Dan Goeller
Festival Ensemble

† The Carol No. 195 (Trinity) – Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come ANTIOCH

The Gospel Lesson Luke 1:26–34 (*page 855*)

The Homily – PONDERING CHRISTMAS The Rev. Richard Hammond, *guest*

The Lighting of Christ Candle

The white candle in the center of the Advent Wreath is called “**The Christ Candle**” and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday to symbolize the birth of Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God, the Light of the world. “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life’” (John 8:12).

† The Carol – 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,
Heav’nly 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
Alleluias to our King; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

† The Benediction

The Piano Postlude – Sing We Now of Christmasarr. Hayes

Festival Ensemble

Violins – *Alvoy Bryan, Jason Pooler & Natalie Parish*

Violas – *Arthur Ross & Stan Pylant*

Cello – *Doug Graves & Hildemarie Wiggill*

Bass – *Sara Neal Lokey*

Flute – *Desiree Wiggill*

Piano/Organ – *Laura Doss*

Welcome

We cordially welcome in Christ's name all who have come to worship with us this evening. If you are visiting with us tonight and do not have a church home, please visit us again on Sunday. In addition to Morning Worship at 11:00 and Evening Worship at 6:00, we have a full program of Sunday School from nursery through youth and adults offered at 9:45 a.m. Infant and child care is offered during all services. Please visit our website, www.christchurchpres.org for more information, or call the church office at 706-210-9090.

Jews for Jesus

Actually, "Jews for Jesus" began as a slogan. In the late 1960s a moving of the Holy Spirit brought thousands of cause-oriented young people to faith in Jesus, many of whom were Jewish. Moishe Rosen officially founded Jews for Jesus in September of 1973. Rosen, a veteran missionary to the Jewish people, was the executive director of the mission for 23 years. He revolutionized evangelistic methods and materials with his creative approach to communicating the gospel, and was considered by many to be the foremost strategist and tactician in the field of Jewish evangelism. He continued to serve on the Board of Directors until his death in 2010.

In the 1970s, Jews for Jesus opened several branches in the United States. They also began their first secular media outreach with a full-page ad in the New York Times in 1976, started publishing ISSUES as an evangelistic publication for Jewish people, and conducted exploratory witnessing expeditions to Israel and Northern Ireland.

In the 1980s, they grew with the establishment of international branches in cities such as Toronto and Johannesburg. In this decade they also instituted a Masters in Jewish Missions program in conjunction with an evangelical seminary. Placing a value on missionary education, they required any of the Jews for Jesus missionary staff without a higher degree to go through this program.

The 1990s saw the founding of Jews for Jesus in the former Soviet Union, which within the space of seven years became fully indigenized, headed and staffed by Russian and Ukrainian Jewish believers in Jesus. Additional international branches established included London, Paris, Sydney, and Tel Aviv. In May of 1996, David Brickner—a fifth-generation Jewish believer in Jesus—was appointed executive director, having served in various leadership positions throughout his first 17 years with the ministry.

In the new millennium, the Jews for Jesus Israel branch has received "amutah," or official status. They have developed a video department to produce new materials, opened branches in Rio de Janeiro and Essen, Germany, and begun a "Behold Your God" outreach to the 65 cities worldwide that have 25,000 or more Jewish people.



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