



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SERVICE

Sunday, December 14 | 6:00 p.m.

**Christ Church, Presbyterian
4201 Southern Pines Drive
Evans, GA 30809**

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† indicates the congregation standing. Please silence all electronic devices.

The Trumpet & Organ Prelude – I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing Inarr. Dale Wood (1934-2003)

The Scriptural Call to Worship Luke 2:10-11, 14

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy, that will be for all the people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

† The Hymn No. 208 (*Trinity Hymnal*) – O Come, All Ye FaithfulADESTE FIDELES

† The Prayer of Invocation The Rev. J. Josiah Jones, *Pastor*

The First ReadingMatthew 1:18-25 (*Pew Bible, page 807*)

The Response**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of Christ. **People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

The Anthem – There Is Faint Music Dan Forrest (2009)

There is faint music in the night, and pale wings fanned by silver flight;

A frosty hill with tender glow of countless stars that shine on snow.

A shelter from the winter storm, a straw-lined manger, safe and warm,

And Mary singing lullabies, to hush her Baby's sleepy sighs.

Her eyes are fixed upon His face, unheeded here is time and space;

Her heart is filled with blinding joy, for God's own Son – her baby Boy!

The Second Reading Luke 2:8-20 (*Pew Bible, page 857*)

The Response**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of Christ. **People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

The Anthem – Shepherd's Pipe Carol John Rutter (1967)

Going through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem,

Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King is
Come to bring us peace on earth, and He's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."*

"Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to Bethlehem,

Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?" *Refrain.*

"None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem;

"But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem."

*Angels in the sky came down from on high, hovered o'er the manger where the Babe was lying
Cradled in the arms of His mother Mary, sleeping now at Bethlehem.*

"Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, is He there at Bethlehem?"

“I will find Him soon by the star shining brightly in the sky o’er Bethlehem.” *Refrain.*
 “May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem?
 “Pay my homage too at the new King’s cradle, is it far to Bethlehem?”
*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: “Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King is
 Come to bring us peace on earth, and He’s lying cradled there at Bethlehem.”*

† The Hymn No. 69 (*Family Songs*) – There’s a Song in the Air..... CHRISTMAS SONG

The Anthem – How Great Our Joy! JUNGST, arr. Craig Courtney (2012)
 While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright. How great our joy!
 There shall be born, so did he say, in Bethlehem a Child today. How great our joy!
 There shall a Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall redeem us all.
 This gift of God we’ll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill.
 Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! How great our joy!

The Offering and the Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory – *Joseph est bien marié* (Joseph is well betrothed) M. A. Charpentier (1643-1704)

The Cantata – The Infant Jesus (*Das neugeborne Kindlein*) Dietrich Buxtehude (c1637-1707)
 The infant Savior comes again, takes to Himself the hearts of men,
 Brings in a year of life and peace, and grants to Christian men release.
 Oh, sing for joy, the angels call; who gladly guard and keep us all.
 Resounding joy breaks forth in song, that God and man again are one.
 We are God’s own, and He’s our Lord, therefore we fear nor hell nor sword.
 Fight devil, fight world, and power of sin! The infant Christ grants peace within.
 He brings a new and joyful year, what need have we of grief or tear?
 Awake, now is the time for song! This little Child forgives our wrong.

The Third Reading..... 1 John 4:7-12 (*Pew Bible, page 1023*)

The Response Pastor: This is the Word of God. **People: Thanks be to Thee, O God.**

The Sermon – THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS The Rev. Jones

† The Hymn [*see back of program*] – Love Came Down at Christmas..... GARTAN

† The Benediction [*Please be seated following the Benediction.*]

The Choral Response Ola Gjeilo (2014)
 Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch or weep tonight,
 And give your angels charge over those who sleep.
 Tend your sick ones, O Lord Jesus Christ; rest your weary ones;
 Bless your dying ones; soothe your suffering ones; pity your afflicted ones;
 Shield your joyful ones; and all for your love’s sake. [On a text of St. Augustine, 354-430 A.D.]

The Organ Postlude – Go, Tell It on the Mountain arr. Charles Callahan (1994)

Love Came Down at Christmas

1. Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di-vine;
2. Wor-ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di-vine;
3. Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;

Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Love Came Down at Christmas". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are provided below the vocal lines.

The Orchestral Musicians

Ryan Kho, *concertmaster*; Shadwa Mussad, Catie Jackson, *violin*; Carl Purdy, *viola*;
Justin Resley, *cello*; Barry Garman, *double bass*; Erin Wilson, *flute*; Fabio Mann, *trumpet*.

The Church Staff

The Rev. J. Josiah Jones, *Pastor*
Dr. Mark Nabholz, *Director of Music*; Mr. Mark Dickens, *Organist*
Mrs. Shirley McBride, *Secretary/Bookkeeper*
Mr. Scott Doss, *AV & Social Media Director*; Mr. Charles Caruso, *Sexton*

