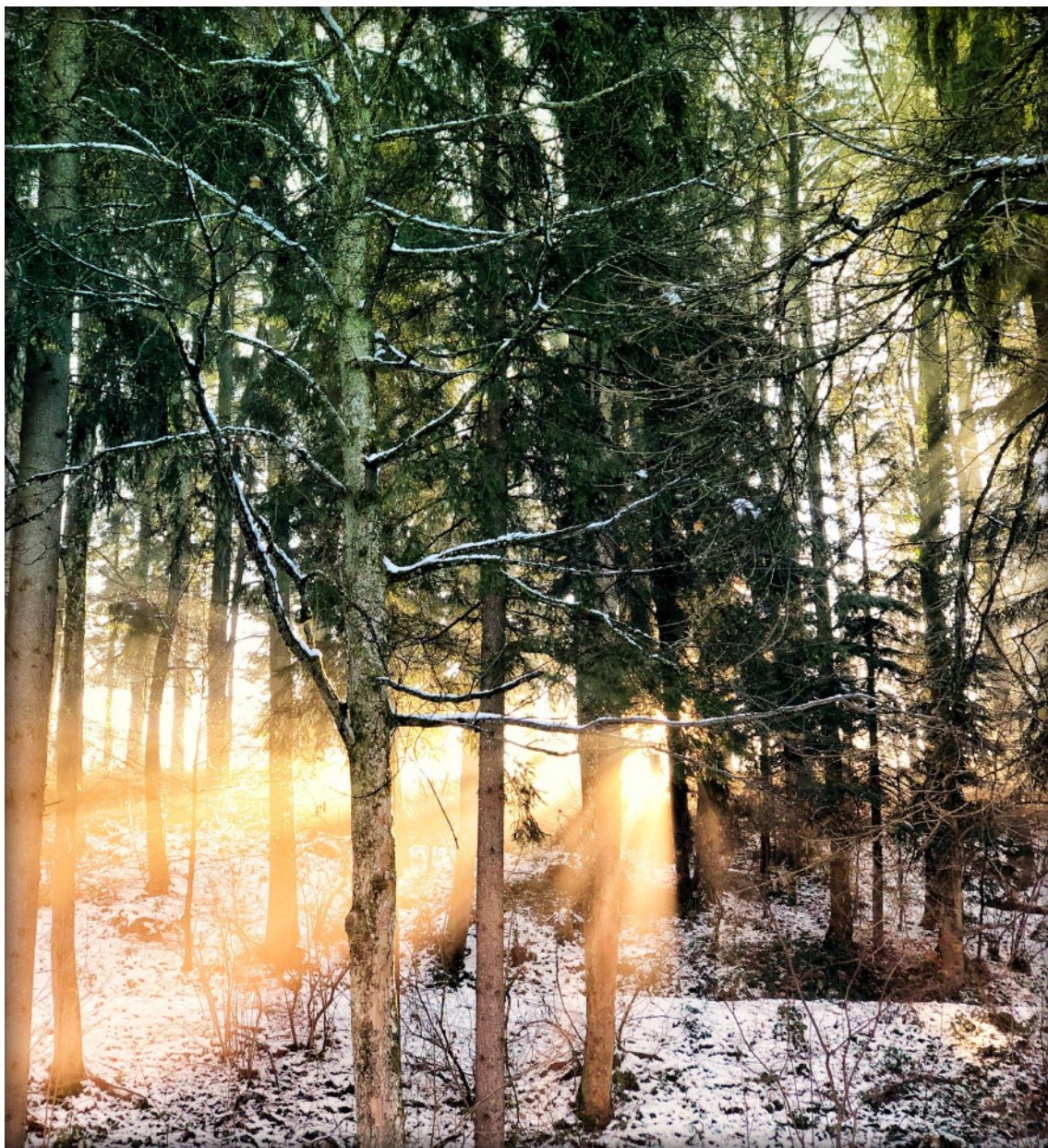


A Light Shines in the Darkness



Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 15, 2019 • Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

Welcome to our church!

We're glad you're here! We hope you experience the warmth and welcome of Christ our Savior in this community.



If this is your first time visiting, please fill out a **Visitor's Card** (located in the pew in front of you) and place it in the offering basket later in the service. We would love to meet you and help you get connected.



If you would like to speak to someone who can answer any questions you may have about our church, please visit the **Welcome Desk**, which will be on your left after you exit the Sanctuary.

Christmas Cantata

December 15, 2019 at 9:00 and 11:15AM

Prelude

Ding, Dong Merrily on High and Angels We Have Heard on High

from *Three French Christmas Carols* arr. Elizabeth Di Savino

Horizon Brass

Call to Worship

from Genesis 1, Isaiah 9, John 1, 1 Peter 2, and Revelation 21

MINISTER: In the beginning, the earth was formless and void and darkness was over the face of the waters.

PEOPLE: And God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light.

MINISTER: For generations, the people wandered in a land of deep darkness, but God, Creator of all things, Author of light, did not leave His people to walk in darkness.

PEOPLE: A Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it!

MINISTER: Dance for joy, young and old! Our God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light!

PEOPLE: Jesus is the Light of the world! He is the root and descendant of David, the bright Morning Star!

UNISON: He has come to shine in our darkness. Let the earth resound with praise! Let us sing for joy at the wonder of His great love!

Hymn

Joy to the World

by Handel; arr. Hobby

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her King; let
2. Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em - ploy, while
3. No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in - fest the ground; he
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the na - tions prove the

8

ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room and heav'n and na - ture
fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing
comes to make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is
13 glo - ries of his right - eous - ness and won - ders of his

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

UNISON: Father, we gather today in worship to meditate on the great mystery of Christ becoming flesh to dwell among us. We grasp for significance, but Christ humbled himself. We refuse to bow in submission, but Jesus emptied himself and was obedient even to death on a cross. Help us to exalt his name in our hearts and in the world. Help us to shine as lights in dark places, to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. As we dwell together on your mighty plan of redemption, may our thankfulness and joy pour forth in rejoicing and in song. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Scripture Reading Genesis 3:8-19

Read by Mark Randle

⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Anthem

O Loving Father of the Stars

from *Morning Star* by Joseph Martin

O loving Father of the stars, who spoke and there was light, send to us your promised Son to end the curse of night; for in His eyes will shine the dawn to burn in us a living song. Morning Star, shine in us, fill us with light. Come, O come, Emmanuel. For long the world had wandered in shadows and in fear. (O Come, Emmanuel.) A promise burned in faithful hearts that Christ would soon appear. (O come, Emmanuel.) Come, O Come, bring the hope of glory near, bind the wound and dry the tear. Morning Star, shine in us. Come, O come, Emmanuel! O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us with Your light. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Come and fill our empty lives. Our hearts as one are open wide. Morning Star, burn in us, fill us with heaven's Light. Come, O come, Emmanuel.

THE SECOND LESSON

Scripture Reading John 1:1-5, 9-14

Read by Joseph Waters

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Anthem

There Is a Star

from *Morning Star* by Joseph Martin
Chloe Gabbard, soprano and David Kent, tenor;
Suzanne Dovel and Mary Beth Moore, descant

O Morning Star, O promised Light, our longing hearts are opened wide. When will we see your glory? There is a star in Bethlehem, a pure and holy light; a sacred flame from heaven's hearth to warm the deepest night. A beacon in the wilderness, a fire to lead the way, a silver promise in the sky that shines the light of day. Light of day! There is a star, promise of heaven, shining with power and glory, Star of the morning, sing to our shadows, cry to our winter; come be our song in the night. There is a star. Star of wonder lead us on to a manger filled with straw; where waits the bright and Morning Star, the Savior of us all, Savior of all, Savior of all.

THE THIRD LESSON

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

Read by Vicki White

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
³You 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.

(continue on next page)

⁶For 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.
⁷Of 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.

Offertory Prayer

Anthem

Rejoice, Rejoice, Ye People of Zion

from *Morning Star* by Joseph Martin

Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion; the glory of heaven is shining today. Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion, for this is the dawning, the dawning of grace. O rejoice with singing, rejoice with dancing; with trumpets and timbrels break forth now in praise. Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion, the glory of heaven is shining today. Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a way for the King. Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord. Let all of creation lift voices and sing. Oh, rejoice, ye mountains. Rejoice, ye valleys, ye rivers, and oceans, ye canyons and caves. Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a way for the King. For now the shadows are passing the day has begun. The time for glorious music and singing has come. For the power of all sin will be broken; Christ will come and banish the night, for the mouth of Jehovah has spoken. Alleluia! See how darkness surrenders to glorious Light!

THE FOURTH LESSON

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-35 and Romans 8:26-28

Read by Caroline White

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,
²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"
²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

(continue on next page)

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Anthem

Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)

by Eaton and Grant; arr. Courtney
LeeAnn Raleigh, alto

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside. And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, you have come and chosen me now to carry Your Son. I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear. In a world as cold as stone must I walk this path alone? Be with me now, be with me now. Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness for You are holy, Breath of Heaven. Do you wonder, as You watch my face, if another should have had my place? But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan. Help me be strong, help me be...help me. Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy. Breath of Heaven.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-14

Read by Caroline Witherington

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Robert Hobby

REFRAIN:

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **(REFRAIN)**

The Shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **(REFRAIN)**

(continue on next page)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us Salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

CHOIR:

That Jesus Christ is born!

THE SIXTH LESSON

Scripture Reading Isaiah 12

¹You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ²“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Homily Rev. Robert Cunningham, Senior Minister

“The Birth of Joy”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please note:

We offer both wine and grape juice in Holy Communion: wine is in the outer ring of cups, and the grape juice is in the inner rings of cups. Also, gluten-free bread is offered at the center table.

Children's Blessing:

Children (of any age) who have not professed faith in Christ are encouraged to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing from the pastor or officer.

Words of Institution

MINISTER:

Let us together proclaim the hope of the Church:

UNISON:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ shall come again!

MINISTER:

I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, he took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Holy Communion

The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

Poem: Thomas Troeger; Music: Dan Forrest

*The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood.
From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
but cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.*

*When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,
and gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,
the angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,
and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.*

*'This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,
but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone.'*
*The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for Heaven's human Word.*

*The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
and use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,
but charged with faith may we be bold to follow in His way.*

**The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel , Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel!**

Women: They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
Men: And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
ALL: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel!**

Closing Prayer and Benediction

LEADER:

O God, you gave us Your only Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that we may joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer so that we may one day behold Him in all of His glory.

UNISON:

Amen.

LEADER:

May the Child born in a stable be reborn in you this Christmas. May the One who is the Light of the World become the light in your life. May the Word who became flesh and lived among us continue to live within us always. Amen.

Postlude

Flourish on Joy to the World

by Robert Hobby

Weekly Information

Last Week's Attendance: 721

Sunday School: 218

Today's Deacons on Duty:

Allister Littrell, Tim Meador,
and Joshua Owen

Today's Elder on Call:

Dan Breedon

Giving Report: For more info, visit tcpca.org/give

November Actual Giving: \$159,184

November Giving Goal: \$156,417

Difference: +\$3,434

YTD Actual Giving (Oct-Nov): \$327,193

YTD Actual Expenses (Oct-Nov): \$352,417

Difference: -\$25,224

Calendar

Sunday, December 15

9:00 am, Christmas Cantata

10:20 am, No Sunday School

11:15am, Christmas Cantata

2:00pm, Lafayette Place Seniors Worship

Wednesday, December 18

6:30 am, Men's Bible Study

12:00pm, Men's Bible Study

Thursday, December 19

12:30 pm Access Prayer Group

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am, Worship of the Living God

10:20 am, No Sunday School

11:15am, Worship of the Living God

2:00pm, Lafayette Place Seniors Worship

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 pm, Christmas Eve Service

(Nursery will not be open)

Choir

Directed by Suzanne Dovel & Chelsea Steyn

Soprano

Robyn Lehnert
Mary Beth Moore
Chloe Gabbard
Whitley Schoop
Megan Binkowski
Esther Fleming
Anita Yenwongfai
Suzanne Dovel
Esther Ratajeski
Sally Cash
Anna Hogan
Rachel Sebourm
Sandra Marlowe
Francisca Hirschfeld
Malisa Anderson
Jody Hicks

Tenor

Henry Lackey
Dan Breeden
Kent Ratajeski
Danny Adkins
Clark Schumann
Ron Whitley
David Kent
David Sloan

Alto

Carrie Banta
Robin Maddux
Janet Whitley
Eileen Frisinger
Janie Weatherford
Deb Jones
Jane Ritter
Monica Kent
Judy Greer
Sandi Guinn
Karen Iverson
LeeAnn Raleigh
Joann Anderson
Anita Haddock
Tricia Brown
Ruth Binkowski
Leigh Sharpe

Bass

Mickey Moore
Greg Anderson
Ken Iverson
Jeff Payne
Wilson Wise
John Lee
Wayne Marlowe
Ken Littrell
Eddie Tanous
Wes Anderson
Preston Hicks

Musicians

Violin

Sarah Glenn
Grace Doty
Rob Sivy
Ellyn Washburne
Jim Griffioen

Viola

Reza Rahmati
Wendy Yates

Cello

Bonnie Griffioen
Rebecca Price

Percussion

Jim Corcoran
Eric Sokolowski

Organ

Jane Ritter

Piano

Deb Endean

HORIZON BRASS

Greg Wing, trumpet
Deb Eastwood, trumpet
L. Curtis Hammond, horn
Russ Zokaites, trombone
Stacy Baker, tuba

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

Phone: 859-272-4399 **Email:** office@tcpca.org

Learn more about our church online at tcpca.org