

WORSHIP NOTES

LEADING WORSHIP Kathy Beach, Pastor; Stephanie Hankins, Parish Associate Minister; Dave McCollum, Director of Music; Eric Luke, Accompanist; Janie Beach-Verhey, Maggie Cheves, Rob Ellerbe, Miller Hankins, Nathaniel Hankins, Sam Nixon, Adamae Stewart, Annabelle Stewart, Worship Leaders; Mike, Becky, & Thomas Steele, Ashlyn, Dusty & Emory Yates, Ushers and Greeters.

WELCOME TO ALL who gather this evening to celebrate the birth of Jesus here at the Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church. From far and wide we have come, but we are one in faith as we gather around the manger. We pray that this service may be the centerpiece of your Christmas season, bringing you close to Jesus who comes to bring God's love to all.

THE BULLETIN COVER was created especially for this worship service by the participants in Project Advent on November 24. Participants young and older each added a thumb print. Thank you to staff member Becca Vickery for creating this cover and inviting others to join in creating it.

TONIGHT'S OFFERING will be divided equally to support two local ministries: Blowing Rock CARES (Children Are Really Extra Special) food pantry, which is housed at Rumble, and The Children's Council of Watauga County. Blowing Rock CARES operates each Monday morning from 9-12. Anyone with a Watauga County address is welcome to receive food from the pantry each and every week of the year. The Children's Council's mission is to build a strong foundation for children's learning and development by strengthening families, the early childhood system, and the wider community. They focus their mission on children 0-5 years old, based on the knowledge that these first years are most critical in a child's development.

IN ADDITION TO OUR MONETARY OFFERING TONIGHT, as we celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, we will be receiving diapers to donate for the Children's Council of Watauga County. Believing that "all children deserve equal care and basic necessities," the Council supplies free diapers to local families in need through their "Who Needs a Change?" program. Rumble's Mission Committee will have a collection box available in the office reception area through Sunday, December 29 if you did not bring diapers tonight but would like to contribute them.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR FOOD DONATIONS FOR BLOWING ROCK CARES can be placed in the shopping carts in the office reception area.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION is adapted from a prayer written by Brad Offutt for the 2008 Christmas services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Port Townsend, Washington. The Christmas Story in Rhyme is an adaptation of the Christmas stories in The Rhyme Bible published by Zondervan.

RUMBLE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO RETURN and worship here on Sunday mornings, at 11:00 a.m., in the sanctuary. Childcare is provided for children 5 and under and children's worship education is provided for children K-2nd grade during worship. Sunday school for youth (6th-12th grade) and adults is offered each Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45. Christian education and music, for elementary and middle school youth, is offered each Wednesday afternoon from 2:30-4:30. To find out more visit the church website, www.rumplechurch.org or our Facebook page, call or email Stephanie, our Parish Associate Minister, parishassociate@rumplechurch.org , 828.295.7675 extension 15.

PRELUDE

Please join us in singing these Christmas carols

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

“The First Nowell”

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

WELCOME

CAROL OF PREPARATION

Text: Joseph Mohr Music: Franz Xaver Gruber

“Silent Night, Holy Night” (Vs. 1)

No. 122

TUNE: STILL NACHT

THE PROPHECY

Isaiah 9: 2-7, p. 900

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight is a holy night: a night of stars and angels,

A night of shepherds and sheep, and a family in a stable.

Tonight we all travel to Bethlehem and we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

With joy and love in our hearts, come, let us adore him!

Let us worship God who has come to us in Emmanuel, God with us.

+CAROL

Text and Music: John Francis Wade

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

No. 133

TUNE: ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

+CAROL

Text: Isaac Watts Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

“Joy to the World”

No. 134

TUNE: ANTIOCH

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God of the shepherds, You announced Your arrival among us to the poorest, the most humble.

We celebrate Your good news to each of us and to everyone, right here where we are.

God of the manger,

You came to us through Your Son in a small and simple place.

We celebrate Your presence with us this day

in this small place made glorious by Your being in it.

God of new life,

when You became as we are,

You opened Yourself to each of us,

no matter who or what we are.

We celebrate this day Your Kingdom

and that we are welcome in it right now and always.

God of Christmas,

bless us as we once again celebrate Your coming among us in Jesus our Savior,

God is with us.

Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:1-20, p. 54

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS IN RHYME

All children and youth are invited to come forward and find a seat for the story. Everyone, of all ages, is invited to put on a costume and to join in making the sounds for the characters in the Christmas story.

Please remain seated and join in singing one verse of the following carols during the story (see insert):

"Away in a Manger"

"Hark! The Harold Angels Sing"

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Gentle Mary, Tender Mary

By: Jay Althouse

Emily Leonard , solo

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

+SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

John 1, p. 86

+CAROL

Text: Joseph Mohr Music: Franz Xaver Gruber

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

No. 122

TUNE: STILL 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,
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: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

+BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“A Christmas Fantasy”

By Timothy Brown

Please place your candles in one of the bins at the entrance to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service or feel free to take it with you. Merry Christmas.