

WORSHIP NOTES

Leading Worship Tonight: Kathy Beach, Pastor, David McCollum, Director of Music, Eric Luke, Accompanist, Mary Jane Keathley, Lance Perry, David Rogers, liturgists. Elders serving communion: Mary Lentz, Robert Shirley. Ushers: Mike, Becky, and Thomas Steele

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 Emma Liesegang, an 11th grader at Watauga High School and an active member of the Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church family. She took her inspiration both from Scripture and from some of our favorite Christmas carols in our hymnbook.

The communion table at Rumble is an open table. Anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ is welcome to share in the communion meal. You do not need to be a member of this church to participate. We will celebrate the sacrament by intinction tonight. The elder will tear off a piece of bread from the common loaf and you can then dip it in the cup. If you are unable to come forward, please let one of the ushers know and the elders will serve you in your pew.

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 WeCan (Watauga Crisis Assistance Network), an emergency financial assistance program through the Hospitality House in Boone. Blowing Rock CARES operates each Monday morning from 9-12. (It will be closed on 12/31 and open again on 1/7/19) Anyone with a Watauga County address is welcome to receive food from the pantry each and every week of the year. WeCan operates Monday- Friday from 10-12 at the Hospitality House, 338 Brook Hollow Road, and provides assistance with utility bills, medications, and rent in an effort to help prevent homelessness.

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 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 30 if you did not bring diapers tonight but would like to contribute them.

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-1st grade during worship. Sunday school is offered each Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45. KICKS and Fusion, our Christian education and music program 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 Holly, Director of Discipleship, rumplediscipleship@gmail.com, 828.295.7675 ext. 12.

Please place your candles in the one of the bins at the entrances to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service. Thank you and have a Merry Christmas!

PREPARATION

5:45 GATHERING CAROLS

No. 123 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
No. 132 Good Christians Friends Rejoice
No. 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 136 Go Tell it on the Mountain
No. 134 Joy to the World

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

from Isaiah 9

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

And the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

SOLO

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”
David Rogers, soloist

PRAYER OF ADORATION

O God, light of hearts that seek you, life of the souls that love you, we give you all honor, glory, and praise this night. O Immanuel, O Wisdom from on high, O Lord of might, O Key of David, O Bright and Morning Star, O Savior of nations, we rejoice and are glad for truly you have come, full of grace and truth, to save us and show us the way. Even now, we pray, come into our hearts again. Show us the path of knowledge. Turn any darkness into light. End our sad divisions and be our King of peace, so that every creature in heaven and on earth will join in a chorus of praise, and shout with joy to you, our Lord and Savior. Amen

+CAROL

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” No. 133

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Robert and Joanie Shirley

EXPECTATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-35; p. 53

REFLECTIONS

CAROL

“What Child Is This?” No. 145

REVELATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7; p. 54

REFLECTIONS

HANDBELL CAROL

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
David McCollum, Mary Jane Keathley, handbells

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-14; p. 55

REFLECTIONS

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:15-20; p. 55

+CAROL

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

No. 119

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Christmas Creed by Rev. Walter Russell Bowie

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem. I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small. I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today. I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts. I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible. I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother’s arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God’s love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God. I confess my everlasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold. I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the Son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. Amen.

CELEBRATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:7-12; p. 2

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Hallelujah” by Leonard Cohen
Text by Mary Jane Keathley, Kenneth Keathley, soloist

THE JOYFUL FEAST OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup
Communion of the People

ILLUMINATION

+SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

John 1

+CAROL

“Silent Night” No. 122

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 is born; Christ the Savior is born.

+BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

+Indicates those who are able may stand.

Bold font indicates all say together.