

Worship Notes

LEADING WORSHIP TONIGHT Kathy Beach, Pastor, Stephanie Hankins, Parish Associate Minister, David McCollum, Director of Music, Eric Luke, Accompanist, Evalyn Suddreth, Soloist; Mary Jane Keathley, David Rogers, Liturgists. Elders serving communion: Mike and Becky Steele, Kim Rogers. Ushers: Mike, Becky, and Thomas Steele, Ashlyn, Dusty, & Emory Yates; Star bearer: Caroline Beach-Verhey.

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 COMMUNION TABLE AT RUMPLE 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. Gluten free wafers are also available

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 in 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 BULLETIN COVER was created especially for this worship service by the participants in Project Advent back in late November. The piece was designed by Becca Vickery. T

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION was written by Jill Duffield for the *Presbyterian Outlook* for Christmas Eve 2018.

RUMPLE 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.

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.

EXPECTATION

5:45 GATHERING CAROLS

“The First Nowell” No. 147
“Once in Royal David’s City” No. 140
“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” No. 123
“Good Christians Friends Rejoice” No. 132
“People Look East” No. 105

WELCOME

DUET “Still is the Night” By J. Paul Williams / Joseph M. Martin

+CALL TO WORSHIP from Micah 5
“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times”
Come, O Come Immanuel

+CAROL “Prepare the Way, O Zion” (Stanza 1)

+PRAYER OF ADORATION

All that will be done, has been done, Lord. The preparing, the waiting, the anticipation, the anxiety, all ends tonight. No matter where we find ourselves this Christmas Eve, we make our way to the manger to worship. We leave behind our burdens and fears, come just as we and rest in the incarnate love of God. We abide in the beauty of boundaries broken, barriers breached and reconciliation enacted through the birth of Jesus Christ. We rejoice that you make stables sacred, ordinary people vessels of the holy and shepherds and animals the first witnesses to the inbreaking of salvation. Visit us this night with angels, give us ears to hear the chorus of good news of great joy for all people, grant us the courage to leave what we know in order to encounter heaven come to earth. May the coming of the Prince of Peace hush the din of violence, quiet in us any voice but yours and render all creation lost in praise. Amen.

+CAROL “O Come, All Ye Faithful” No. 133

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-35, p. 53

REFLECTION The Word Became Flesh Susan Palo Cherwien

CAROL “What Child is This” No.145

REVELATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7, p. 54

REFLECTION Lions and Oxen Will Feed in the Hay Tom Troeger

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

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20, p.55

REFLECTION Angel and Star

+CAROL “Angels We Have Heard on High” No. 113

+LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Tim and Shirley Harris

+CAROL “Joy to the World” No. 134

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-8, p.1-2

REFLECTION Music as Prayer Rehearsing for an Epiphany Tom Troeger

SOLO “The Magi’s Journey Starts” Troeger/ McCollum

+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 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 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 believe in Jesus, the Son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. Amen.

+CAROL “O Little Town of Bethlehem” No. 121

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:7-12, p.2

REFLECTION Looking for a Star Stephen Veazey

SOLO “What Star is This, with Beams so Bright?” See No. 152

CELEBRATION

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY “Silent Night” By Gruber/Taylor

THE JOYFUL FEAST

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

ILLUMINATION

+SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST John 1, p.86

+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: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

+BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Ave Verum Corpus” By Mozart/Idogawa