

Service for the Lord's Day
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • December 27, 2020
First Sunday of Christmas



in excelsis deo!

Preparatory Music

Mary Had a Baby

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to us all!

Vocal Prelude

A Strange Way to Save the World

Mark Lowry

Call to Worship

Psalm 147

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
how pleasant it is to honor the LORD with praise!
Great is our LORD and mighty in power,
whose wisdom is beyond limit.
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music to our God upon the harp.

Hymn 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

Prayer of the Day

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word. In all things, may we think and act according to your good will and live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60: 19-22

The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night;
but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.
Your sun shall no more go down, or your moon withdraw itself;
for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.
Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever.
They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands, so that I might be glorified.
The least of them shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation;
I am the LORD; in its time I will accomplish it quickly.

Mark 1: 9-14

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

Hymn 121

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sins and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels their great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide in us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Sermon

Breaking and Entering

Offertory Solo

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Offerings for God's work through Paw Creek Church are gratefully received in the baskets by the entrance and exits to the sanctuary, or by mail to the church office.

Prayers of God's People

Beginning with announcements and prayer concerns; and concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

Hymn 136

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

*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.*

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

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Joy to the World

arr. Dan Forest and Douglas E. Wagner

*Elliott Hipp, Pastor • Mark Burluson, Pianist • Patrick McCarthy, Director of Music/Soloist
Clint Shaw, Video and Streaming • Members of the Task Force for In-person Worship, Arrangements*

Soloist • Hannah Hyatt

Please welcome to the pulpit this morning our guest preacher, the Reverend George Slaton. George is a Charlotte native who grew up in nearby Concord. He attended Union Theological Seminary in Richmond VA and Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in Louisville KY. He served churches in Florida and Tennessee. George completed a residency in pastoral psychotherapy at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta GA. He served as therapist and Executive Director at Presbyterian Counseling Center in Wilmington NC from 1980 until 2010. An honorably retired member of the Presbytery of Charlotte, George serves on its Conciliation Team.