

A festive Christmas scene featuring a red poinsettia, lit candles, a trumpet, and sheet music. The background is a deep red with a subtle pattern. The text is written in a white, elegant cursive font. The scene is lit with warm, golden light from the candles, creating a cozy and celebratory atmosphere.

*Rejoice!*

*Our  
Savior  
is Born!*



*Merry Christmas!*

Thank you for being here to worship the King!

Tonight we kneel before the manger.

Our present is our presence.

### **The Birth of Jesus**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.



## Christmas Eve

Our Lord's Birth  
December 24, 2011

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him!

*As a kindness to fellow worshippers, silence electronic devices.  
And please do not take photography during the music.  
The liturgist will indicate appropriate times for applause.*

Dr. Mark Hornbaker, <i>Choral Director</i>	Dot Thomas, <i>Organist</i>
Bobby Hodges Jr, <i>Oboe</i>	Betty King, <i>Flute</i>
Melissa Scherper, <i>Clarinet</i>	Gary McGrew, <i>Liturgist</i>

### Gathering Music

*Trio Giocoso*

### Liturgical Signing

*God is With Us*  
*Maggie Cobb, Katie Gillespie, Amanda Nelson*

### Call to Worship

Leader: Friends, there is a song in the air. Will you sing it?  
People: **Let us sing to the Lord a new song, a song of joy!  
Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!**

Leader: Friends, there is a star in the sky. Will you follow it?  
People: **Let us abandon our darkness and embrace the light!  
Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!**

Leader: Friends, there is a mother's deep prayer. Will you breathe it?  
People: **Let us repent of our selfishness and ponder His coming!  
Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!**

Leader: Friends, there is a baby's low cry. Will you adore Him?  
People: **Let us worship Christ the Lord, the new-born King!  
Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!**

**Processional**

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

No. 41

*Soloist will sing the first verse. Please join in on the second verse.*

*Cantique de Noel*

*Laurel Byer*

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

*Gary & Paula McGrew*

**Response**

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming Light of Jesus!

People: **We will walk today and every day in the Light of Jesus!**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

No. 38

*Carols of the Angels*

*Choir*

**Prayer**

*The People of God in Unison*

**Almighty God, on this holiest of all evenings,  
Draw us to the sacred stable of our Redeemer,  
To proclaim the birth of our Savior and King,  
To join our voices with all the heavenly host,  
To sing of His glory and might in the highest!**

**Give us a place among the humble shepherds,  
Who sought and found and knelt before Him.  
So fill us tonight also with much love and wonder,  
That with our hearts we may truly worship Him,  
Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, the Lord of all!**

*I Wonder as I Wander*

*Mark Hornbaker*

*The First Noel*

*Choir*

**Old Testament Lesson**

Isaiah 9: 2-7

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**And His Name will be called, Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**

**New Testament Lesson**

**Luke 2: 1-7**

**In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**

*Mary's Little Baby Child*

*BluesTone*

**And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.**

**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and, on earth, peace among those with whom God is pleased!**

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

*Choir*

## Affirmation of Faith

It is not true that in this world death and destruction have the last word.  
It is not true that in this world there is no meaning, no reason, no purpose.

**This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son  
so that everyone who believes in Him shall not die, but have eternal life**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination.  
It is not true that we must be resigned to hunger and to poverty.

**This is true: Jesus said, I have come that they may have life.  
Jesus said, I have come that they may have life more abundantly**

It is not true that we must give in to violence and hate as an answer.  
It is not true that we must give in to evil and wickedness as the norm.

**This is true: For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given,  
And this Son has all authority, whose Name is Prince of Peace**

It is not true our lives were destined to be hopelessly dark and grim.  
It is not true that nobody cares about us when life is unfair or unkind.

**This is true: Jesus promised, Come unto Me, all that have a heavy heart  
And I will give you peace and strength and hope, for I am with you always**

*Gesu Bambino*

*Collin Nelson*

## Lighting the Peoples' Candles

*Silent Night*

*Congregation*

*When lighting your candle, tip the UNLIT candle to the LIT candle.*

*Raise your candle high as you sing the fourth verse of the carol.*

**Blessing**

*Pastor*

**Pealing**

*Handbells*

*You may extinguish your candle*

**Recessional**

*Joy to the World*

*Congregation*

*Choir will lead the congregation outside the church*

## **“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

*Raise your candle high as you sing the fourth verse of the carol*

**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.**

## **“Joy to the World”**

*Please recess following the choir and continue to sing as you walk outside.  
Please place your candle in the boxes provided in the Narthex as you exit.*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns. Let us our songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground!  
He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.**

*Have a Blessed Christmas!*  
*Thank you for providing poinsettias for our worship service tonight.*  
*Please pick up your poinsettia following the worship service.*  
*Poinsettias that remain shall be taken to shut-ins and care facilities.*



***First Presbyterian South Charleston Chancel Choir***

<i>Mark Hornbaker</i>	<i>Pat Kent</i>	<i>Shuba Narasimhan</i>
<i>Ellen Bush</i>	<i>Amber Lavigne</i>	<i>Becky Nelson</i>
<i>Laurel Byer</i>	<i>Dave Long</i>	<i>Collin Nelson</i>
<i>Margaret Byer</i>	<i>Phyllis McCutcheon</i>	<i>Mark Nelson</i>
<i>Doug Calderwood</i>	<i>Gary McGrew</i>	<i>Dwight Sherman</i>
<i>Kim Cobb</i>	<i>Paula McGrew</i>	<i>Marilyn Sherman</i>
<i>Maggie Cobb</i>	<i>Sam McGrew</i>	<i>Graham Shook</i>
<i>Bob Cruickshank</i>	<i>John Melton</i>	<i>Gene Smalley</i>
<i>Bruce Jeffries</i>	<i>Sandy Melton</i>	<i>Lee Snyder</i>
<i>Joyce Jeffries</i>	<i>Archana Narasimhan</i>	<i>Hannah Stephen</i>

*Mark Hornbaker, Choral Director*