

Prelude

Welcome & Prayer

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath-Christ Candle

Halley Family

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (see insert for lyrics)

Offering

Song "A Voice of One Cries Out"

Cory Holtz

Message: "Hope from the Stinky Shepherds and the Witty Wisemen"

Candlelight Service

Leader: On this holy night, we gather with people around the world to remember the story that changed everything. Tonight, we sing the story. We hear the Word. We receive the Light.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Leader: Come, let us adore Christ the Lord.

**All: Glory to God in the highest.**

Song "O Come All Ye Faithful" #240 (v 1 & 3)

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 NRSV

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."



Reflection

Song "O Come O Come Emmanuel #201 (last verse)

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14 NRSV

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them "Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven and on Earth peace among those who he favors!"

Reflection

Song "Silent Night"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered . Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reflection

Song "Away in the Manger" #201



Scripture: John 1:1-5, 9-14 NRSV

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light which enlightens everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

Reflection

Candle light Leader:

Tonight, we remember that the light of Christ cannot be contained. As the flame is shared, we are reminded that Christ's light grows as it is given away. Please tilt your unlit candle to receive the light.

(Light your candle and pass it to your neighbor)

Song "Silent Night" #239

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Thank you to the Nikiki Halley and family for lighting the Christ Candle!

*We Wish You a Merry Christmas!*



# Waxhaw United Methodist Church

## December 24, 2025



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