

COMMUNION

Come and receive of the feast that Jesus offers those who follow him. During this time, we remember Jesus' sacrifice and are nourished by his Body that was broken on the cross for us and Blood that was poured out for the sins of many. In front of the stage there is an area available for private prayer. There are also members of the congregation and Prayer Team available for prayer in the cafeteria during and after communion.

December 8, 2013

Luke 1:68-79 | Ephesians 2:1-7

THE FIRST NOEL

WESLEY/PRICHARD

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israell

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both Pause and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought.

Traditional English Christmas Carol "The First Nowell" (Public Domain)

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

KING JOHN/WADE

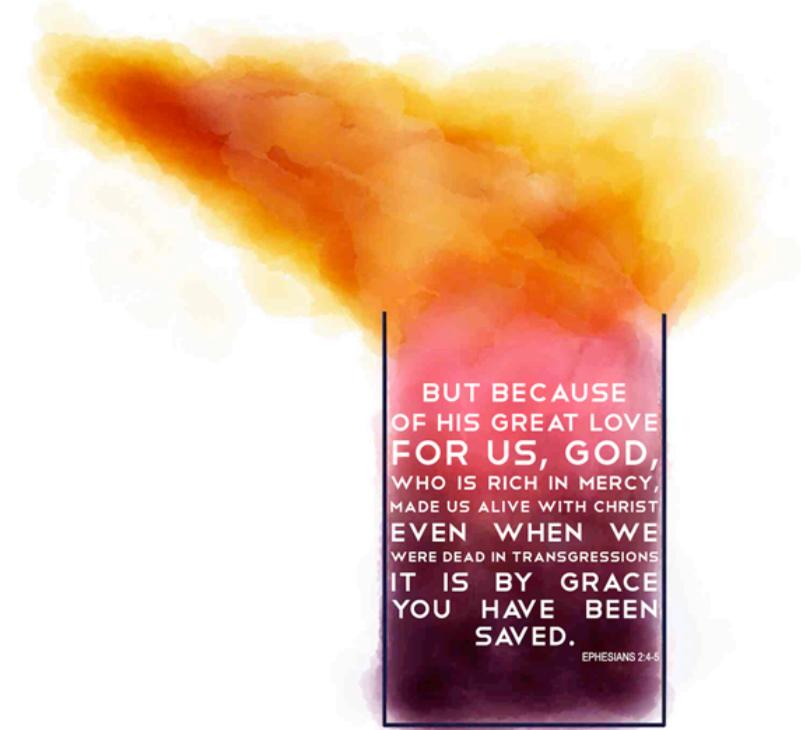
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest

Lyrics by John Francis Wade (1751) and by King John IV of Portugal (Public Domain)



ADVENT 2013  

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.
-Christina Rossetti

UPCOMING www.allgather.org/calendar	CONTACT	GIVING www.allgather.org/giving
<p>Dec 15 - Kids Program and Potluck: All of the hard work that are kids have been doing will pay off as they present our annual Christmas Program as part of our worship gathering. Plan on staying afterward for a potluck meal together.</p> <p>Dec 22 - Hanging of the Greens! Join in after service to decorate the gym</p> <p>Dec 24 - Christmas Eve service 5:30pm, families welcome, no childcare provided. Invite your friends and neighbors!</p> <p>Fill out a blue card to receive our churchwide midweek email keeping you abreast of news and opportunities.</p>	<p>Office at Hamilton Centre 1415 W NC54 Ste 114 Durham, NC 27707</p> <p>p919.797.2884 f919.908.1171</p> <p>@allgather facebook.com/allgather</p> <p>Access a password-protected Church Directory at: www.allgather.org/info/directory/</p>	<p>YTD GIVING (12/1): \$284,647</p> <p>2013 BUDGET GOAL: \$375,000</p> <p>Ways to continue to worship through giving:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) In the black box on the back table on Sundays. (2) By automating a draft through your bank. (3) By mailing a check to PO Box 16402/Chapel Hill, NC 27516. (4) Online through Paypal.or Dwolla.com

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

TRADITIONAL

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous
strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Lyrics French Traditional, Translated James Chadwick (1862) and Music by Edwin Barnes (Public Domain)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Gathering Church. We are a church that is growing in doing three things well: being present to God in worship, being connected to each other in community, and being engaged in the world by serving and sharing God's love. Thank you for gathering this morning to worship the Lord.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The lighting of Advent candles dramatically depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. The wreath symbolizes the growing intensity of light as an additional candle each worship day and as anticipation builds for the celebration of Christ's second coming.

MORE LOVE TO THEE, O CHRIST

PRENTISS

More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love, more love, more love to Thee!
More love, more love, more love to Thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ to Thee;
More love, more love, more love to Thee!
More love, more love, more love to Thee!

Let sorrow do its work, come grief or pain;
Sweet are Thy messengers, sweet their refrain,
When they can sing with me:
More love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love, more love, more love to Thee!
More love, more love, more love to Thee!

Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise;
This still its prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ to Thee;
More love, more love, more love to Thee!
More love, more love, more love to Thee!

Written by Elizabeth Prentiss (1865) Music arr. By Indelible Grace (Public Domain)

OVERWHELMED

WHITE

I wonder what you think of frantic tales
That speak of You as if You're not there
Oh I wonder if it breaks Your heart

I wonder if the mountain would really jump
Into the Sea if only we believed
Oh help our unbelief

Forgive us for the days that we stray
When we're overwhelmed
We'll look up and we'll say
Glorious! Beautiful!
Jesus, we are weak so be our strength

I wonder when like a thief You will return
Will we be asleep or do our hearts yearn
To come beneath Your burning gaze?

Written by Josh White © 2011 Touch The Sun Music (BMI)

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

DIX/TRADITIONAL

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Lyrics - William Dix (1865) Music - "Greensleeves," 16th Century English Melody

DISMISSAL OF THE CHILDREN & THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

As the children are dismissed to participate in Gathering Kids activities, find someone you do not know, welcome them, and exchange a sign of Christ's welcome and peace. As the kids leave, please fill in the two center seating areas. There are bibles available for use on the back table if you didn't bring one.

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

TOWNEND

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that left Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Written by Stuart Townend ©1995 Thankyou Music (EMI) CCLI 1558110