

Waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior.

Christmas Nights

Christmas Eve

Gathering Music:

Angels From The Realms of Glory

Music from James Montgomery (1816) Lyrics from Henry Smart (1867) (Public Domain)

Lighting the Advent Wreath

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,
And will call him Emmanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go.

CHORUS

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height

Lyrics from 12th Century Latin Chant and Music from 15th Century French Processional (Public Domain)

Traditional

In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

CHORUS

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

CHORUS

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

CHORUS

Reading:

Isaiah 11:1-4

O Come All Ye Faithful

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

King John/Wade

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

Refrain

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;

Refrain

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

Angels We Have Heard On High

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?

Refrain

Traditional

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Reading:

Luke 2:1-7

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Redner/Brooks

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

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Music by Lewis Redner (1868) Lyrics by Philips Brooks (1867) (Public Domain)

Reading:

Luke 2:8-14

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Wesley/Mendelssohn

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 the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by Highest Heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see

Hail the Incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Written by Charles Wesley (Lyrics) 1739 and Felix Mendelssohn (Music) 1840 (Public Domain)

Reading:

Luke 2:15-20

Local Missions Offering: Interfaith Counsel & Durham Rescue Mission. *(More on Mission's Giving below.)*

The First Noel

Traditional

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 Israel!

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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

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

Message.

Communion.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Regney/Baker

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
"Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky little lamb,
Do you see what I see?
A star, a star
Dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite."

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
"Do you know what I know?
In your palace wall mighty king,
Do you know what I know?
A child, a child
Shivers in the cold
Let us bring him silver and gold
Let us bring him silver and gold."

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
"Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky shepherd boy,
Do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song
High above the tree
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea."

Said the king to the people everywhere,
"Listen to what I say
Pray for peace people everywhere!
Listen to what I say
The child, the child
Sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light!"

Written by Noël Regney (Lyrics) and Gloria Shayne Baker (Music) ©1962 Regney/Baker

Silent Night

Mohr/Xavier

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

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar

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

Lyrics "Stille Nacht" by Joseph Mohr (1816) and Music by Franz Xavier (1818) (Public Domain)

Joy To The World

Watts/Mason

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.

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.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

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.

Lyrics by Isaac Watts (1719) Music by Lowell Mason (1839) (Public Domain)

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Giving at the Gathering Church (www.allgather.org/giving)

Tonight's Local Missions' Offering will go directly to benefit Chapel Hill's **Interfaith Counsel** (<http://www.ifcweb.org/>) & the **Durham Rescue Mission** (<http://www.durhamrescuemission.org/>).

Both of these organizations provide shelter, food, direct services, advocacy, and information to people in our communities that are in need.

Ways to Give at the Gathering Church

In the black box | Online through Paypal
Automate a draft through your bank | Mailing a check: PO Box 16402/Chapel Hill, NC 27516



Giving at the Gathering Church (www.allgather.org/giving)

The Gathering Church also tithes 10% of its income to partner organizations internationally and locally that share a relational and missional link. These include:

International Giving (\$5000)

Gethsemane Garden Christian Center (<http://www.ggcckenya.com>) \$2500

Gethsemane Garden Christian Centre (GGCC) is on Mfangano Island in Lake Victoria in Kenya. Over four hundred students are currently enrolled at the Christian-based school, where they consistently exceed the national average for end-of-year test scores. The students at GGCC are among the poorest of the poor from Mfangano and the surrounding islands. Up to 65% of the people depend on government assistance for daily sustenance, and 60% of pregnant women are infected with HIV. The number of orphans increases each year as parents die from this disease.

Questscope (<http://www.questscope.net>) \$2500

Questscope is dedicated to transforming the future of vulnerable youth and communities in the Middle East—by equipping them with the resources and hope they need to become compassionate and productive citizens.

Local Giving (\$9750)

Reality Ministries (<http://realityministriesinc.org>) \$4500

Helping adolescents live into the loving presence and life-changing reality of Jesus Christ.

The Reality Center – a place with no margins.

We Desire... To share the personal love of God with adolescents through meaningful, lasting friendships. To provide a sense of unconditional belonging to teenagers with different backgrounds and abilities. To encourage adolescents to live Christ-centered lives in their families, schools, and community. To send throughout the world young men and women who are equipped with "a hope and a future."

Creekside Elementary (<http://www.creekside.dpsnc.net>) \$1500

Creekside Elementary School, home of the "Soaring Eagles"! Our entire staff is committed to providing a safe and inviting learning environment. Our goal is to develop students who are critical thinkers, problem solvers, and risk takers. We believe that our partnership with parents and families in providing the best educational experience for all students is a key component to Creekside's success. We are honored to have the opportunity to serve those who have been entrusted to us.

Extraordinary Ventures (<http://extraordinaryventures.org/>) \$750

Extraordinary Ventures provides vocational, social and training opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities who desire to be contributing members of our community.

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship @ UNC-CH (<http://unciv.weebly.com/>) \$750

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is an evangelical and interdenominational campus ministry. Last year, UNC's undergraduate chapter had about 300 students involved in the InterVarsity ministry. Across the nation, we were active on more than 560 college campuses and had approximately 34,000 active students and faculty.

Eagle's Nest Tutoring (<http://www.allsaints-chd.org/assets/eaglesNestWebinfo.pdf>) \$1500

Eagles Nest is an after school tutoring ministry that seeks to love and empower children from the Oak Creek Village Apartment Community by teaching basic reading skills, helping with homework, and building positive relationships between volunteers, students and their families.

Restoration Carrboro/Chapel Hill (<http://www.allgather.org/mission/restoration-carrborochapel-hill>) \$750

We are working, along with four other local churches, on some homes needing work. From 8am-4pm on Saturdays in Chapel Hill, come out to help get a house ready for painting by removing all the rotten wood from the siding and porch. It will be a great opportunity to serve and build some unity with other believers in our community!