

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. In front of the stage there is an area available for kneeling and prayer. Feel free to take some time before and after receiving to pray.

the gathering church



December 24, 2012
Isaiah 9:2-7 | Luke 2

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

CANDLE LIGHTING

Share your candlelight with your neighbor. Taken from the Christ-candle of our advent wreath, these lights signify God's arrival into the darkness of the world through the small, unassuming Light of the Christ-child.

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 Savior is born
Christ, the Savior 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)

UPCOMING www.allgather.org/calendar

GIVING www.allgather.org/giving

Join us for regular Sunday worship service at **10:30am on December 30th** at Creekside Elementary School.

For more information on **World Relief Durham** and our other missions partners visit www.allgather.org/engaged.

WAYS TO WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING:
(1) In the black box on the back table on Sundays.
(2) Online through Paypal.
(3) By automating a draft through your bank.
(4) By mailing a check to PO Box 16402/Chapel Hill, NC 27516.



Christmas Eve

"Once again the Christmas bells have brought us
Tidings of good will and peace;
Once again the angel lips have taught us
Music that shall never cease.
Over all the world the song is sounding,
Ringing in the happy morn—
Glory! glory! Christ the Lord is born."

- Edith S. Tillotson (1914)

GATHERING MUSIC: THE WORLD'S GREATEST STORY

BRUMLEY

Written by Alfred Brumley ©1952 Alfred Brumley and Sons CCLI# 566622

LIGHTING OF 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 main symbolism portrayed by the wreath is the growing intensity of light as the candle lighting includes an additional candle each worship day and as anticipation builds for the celebration of Christ's second coming.

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

TRADITIONAL

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

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

**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.

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

CHORUS

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

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.

READING:

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

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

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

REFRAIN

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

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!

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

REFRAIN

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

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

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

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.

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

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 never forsake.

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!"

Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
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 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

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!

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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

Refrain

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

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:

WORLD RELIEF DURHAM

Money from tonight's collection goes directly to *World Relief Durham* (www.worldreliefdurham.org), a local agency that works with refugee hospitality, immigration, and human trafficking.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION:

Lead Pastor Mark Acuff