



**WELCOME TO
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
336-725-1651

www.stjohnsnc.com

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Service

December 24, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.

**St. John's Mission: To help one more person get to Heaven
by pointing them to Jesus Christ.**

Pre-Service Prophecy: Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Pre-Service Prayer

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel! Amen.

Prelude A Garland of Carols

Welcome & Sharing of the Peace

P: Our opening song invites all to come home and worship Jesus, who was born on Christmas morning. Please stand.

Hymn #379 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Recalling our sin and God’s mercy, let us examine our lives and consciences. Holy and gracious God,

C: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before You, O Lord, for all my sins. I have lived as if You did not matter and I mattered most. Your name I have not honored and my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love have its way with me and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I am sorry for all my sins and plead for Your mercy in Christ Jesus. Graciously forgive me all my sins and help me amend my sinful life. Amen.

(Please stand)

Reading – Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: God didn't hide what He had done; He told shepherds that He came for them!

(Be seated.)

Hymn #368 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

(Please stand)

Reading – Luke 2:8-20

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what

the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Be seated)

Children's Message

Hymn #361 **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

Sermon: **“The Waiting Room of Eternity”**

Offering

Offertory Solo **“O Holy Night”** Adolphe Adam
(Andrew René, baritone)

(Please Stand)

Candles are lit; John 1:1-14 is read

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn #363 **“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

P: We respond to Jesus who made a home for us in heaven! Merry Christmas!

Hymn #387 "Joy to the World"

Postlude "In dulci jubilo"

J.S. Bach

Worship Assistant: Rich Essbach

Lector: Claudia Essbach

Altar Guild: Tina Kottlowski, Mary Rochester, Jackie Downey, Claudia Essbach

Lock-ups: John Williams, Don Adamick

Poinsettias are given to the glory of God by:

To the Glory of God:

Dale and Alice Mierisch

Bill and Sheryl Thorpe

Allison Weston

Bob and Martha Burke

Mark and Beth Meier

Arden and Glenda Lackey

Don and Clare Adamick

Steve Covington

Joan Happel

Mary Rochester

In memory of:

Richard Blizard by Jeanne Blizard

Bob Cleary by Dot Cleary

Dewey and Debbie Davidson by Jane Davidson

Joyce Clocker by Pastor and Gwen Clocker

Keith N Bowen Jr (Hatti's father) by

Lauren and Hatti Bowen

In honor of:

Mary Barcio and Arline Urban by Dave and Gayle Barcio

Our children and grandchildren by Pastor and Gwen Clocker

You are welcome to take your flowers home to enjoy after the 10:00 service on Christmas Day.

Special thanks to Fran Johnson for sharing her nativity scene with us. It was made by Fran and Jim several years ago. It is on the table in the narthex.

Christmas Day worship service will be at 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

New Year's Eve worship service will be at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion.



Our Sunday Worship – Resuming January 8, our morning services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. on the first and third Sundays, at 10:45 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays, and at both services if there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class both begin at 9:45 a.m.

A Great Place to Grow in Christ

As a part of our outreach ministry, we have a Preschool/Pre-K program and Kindergarten through 8th grade. All programs/grades have full-time care available.

Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship
Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship