



White Christmas at Central

The "White Christmas" service is a Central tradition that has existed over 75 years and continues to be an annual highlight of the church year. It is a single church service, falling about 2 weeks before Christmas, that combines family fellowship, a communal meal, Charitable giving, and a reverent presentation of the Biblical Christmas story. Each element of the evening is inspirational and uplifting and prepares hearts for the upcoming Christmas celebration. The format has remained basically the same over the years with only minor differences from year to year.

The evening has always included the sharing of food. At the old church on Franklin Street, this was always done at the conclusion of the evening when everyone gathered in the basement to enjoy hot Russian Tea and Moravian Cookies. After moving to the new church, tradition changed to sharing a meal prepared and brought from the homes of the many accomplished cooks in the congregation. Tables in the fellowship Hall have festive decorations to set the tone. Children have always been served first because they have special jobs later in the evening.

The remainder of the evening is centered in the sanctuary with a more reverent tone. The worship service always has the same three focal points: the birth of Jesus; sharing the Love of Jesus through the giving of gifts, and spreading the Light of Jesus. First the children and youth present the Nativity Story in costume as the traditional Christmas Story is read from the Holy Bible. Over the years the collection of shepherd, wise men, sheep and angel outfits has grown. The children change from year to year but the

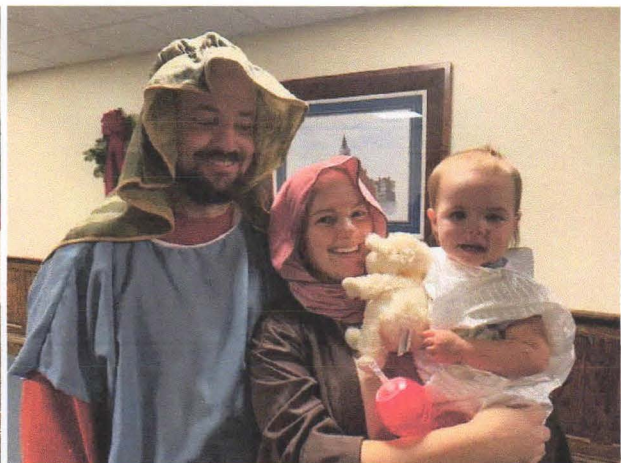
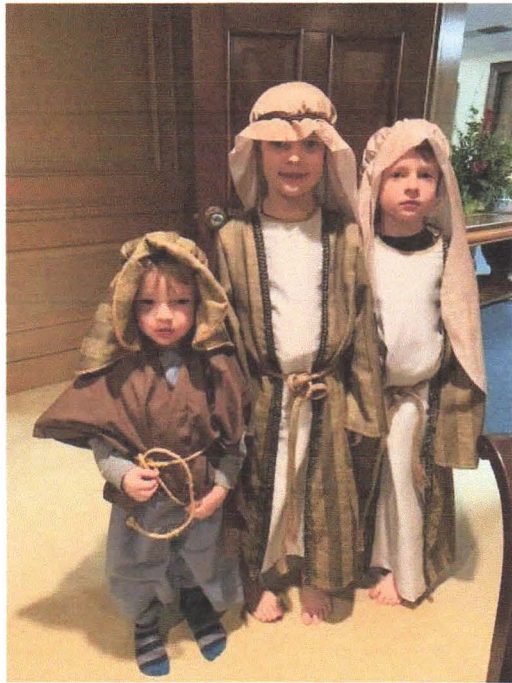
characters remain the same ones in the Christmas story. The only script is the Biblical text from *The Book of Luke*. The cast enters the sanctuary and collects on the stage as their part is read from the scripture. Baby Jesus may be a doll or an actual baby if there is a new one within the congregation. Appropriate Christmas carols are sung after each group takes their place around the manger. There are no parts to learn so no practice is needed. The cast just needs to gather at the manger as the scripture is read. Any child that shows up is given a costume and given simple directions. Being a part of the Christmas Nativity leaves a lasting memory with the children. Hearing and seeing the Christmas story come to life inspires the congregation.

When all the cast is gathered around the manger to worship the Christ Child, the emphasis changes to sharing the Love of Jesus. Everyone coming to the service is asked to bring staple foods wrapped in white tissue paper. At the conclusion of the Nativity, the congregation goes row by row to the front of the sanctuary and leaves staple food and monetary gifts, all wrapped in white tissue, at the altar.

Everyone returns to their pew after being given a candle. As lights are dimmed, the lighting of these candles is passed down each row, person to person. The worship service concludes with everyone carrying the Light of Christ high as they exit the dark sanctuary, singing *Joy to the World* joyously.

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1978
WHITE
CHRISTMAS

CENTRAL UNITED METHODISTS

WHITE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
December 17, 1978
Central United Methodist Church, Mount Airy

At this most glorious season of the year the whole body of Christ joins in proclaiming its eternal Hallelujah for the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

N PRELUDE--"Martinal Air"-----H. Purcell
TO WORSHIP

Leader: Why do we come together in this place?

People: To Celebrate our Savior's birth

Leader: How then shall we celebrate our Savior's birth?

People: By retelling the ancient story once again, with joy and expectation.

Leader: Why is it right that we should retell this ancient story?

People: Because in the retelling, and in the hearing of it, we may make room for the living Christ in the poor stables that are our hearts.

Leader: In this hopeful expectation, then, let us join in the worship of Christ the King:

OF PREPARATION-----"O Little Town of Bethlehem"-----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 in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The Great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

FIRST LESSON-----Luke 2:1-7

L-----"What Child Is This"-----Dix

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?
ain: 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 Christian, fear, for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
ain:

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, King to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone him.
ain:

SECOND LESSON-----Luke 2:8-20

CAROL-----"The First Noel"-----Trad. English Carol

1. The first Noel, the angel 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.

Refrain: NOEL, NOEL, NOEL, NOEL Born is the King of Israel.

2. 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.

3. And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from country far; To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went.

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

5. Then entered in those wise men three, Full reverently upon the knee, And offered there, in his presence, Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

THE THIRD LESSON-----Luke 2:22-32

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

*CAROL AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS-----"O Come, All Ye Faithful"-----Oakeley

1. 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: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory, in the highest;
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

Leader: Let this light be a sign of the coming of Christ's grace
into our hearts this night.

People: And of our going Forth into the world with the message
of good news for all people.

RECESSIONAL HYMN-----"Joy to the World"-----Watts

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

*The congregation will please stand

1785
Please come to the Chancel at the direction of the ushers,
down the center aisle, return by the side aisles. Candles
will be distributed as you leave the Chancel area by the
side aisles.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR AND A BLESSING
UPON THE GIFTS

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

During this time the congregation is invited to share their
light with each other. Please join the Choir in singing)

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

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.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

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.

Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

RECESSIONAL HYMN OF THANKSGIVING *"Joy to the World"*

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.

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

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
Come, make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations
love The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love

The congregation singing as the minister, Mr. Yokley and the acolytes
read the Recessional. Under the direction of the ushers the con-
gregation will follow row by row. You are invited to pause out-



*Central United Methodist
Church
welcomes you
to
White Christmas*

WHITE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
December 22, 1985
7:00 P.M.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR
A TIME OF SILENCE AND PREPARATION

"Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep" A. Wyton

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Minister: O Praise the Lord, all ye nations;
praise him, all ye people.

People: His merciful kindness is great
toward us.

Minister: Blessed be He that cometh in the
name of the Lord.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord for
evermore. Amen.

*INVOCATION

Mr. Haire

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

"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;

CHORUS:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

THE PROPHECY FROM ISAIAH

Mr. Hale Yoley

HYMN OF LONGING AND OF PRAYER

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear, Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all
things, far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one
heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice!
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

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

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM LUKE AND MATTHEW

Mr. Hale Yokley

HYMN OF FULFILLMENT

"Away In a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Mr. Haire

PRESENTATION OF WHITE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

ANTHEM

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

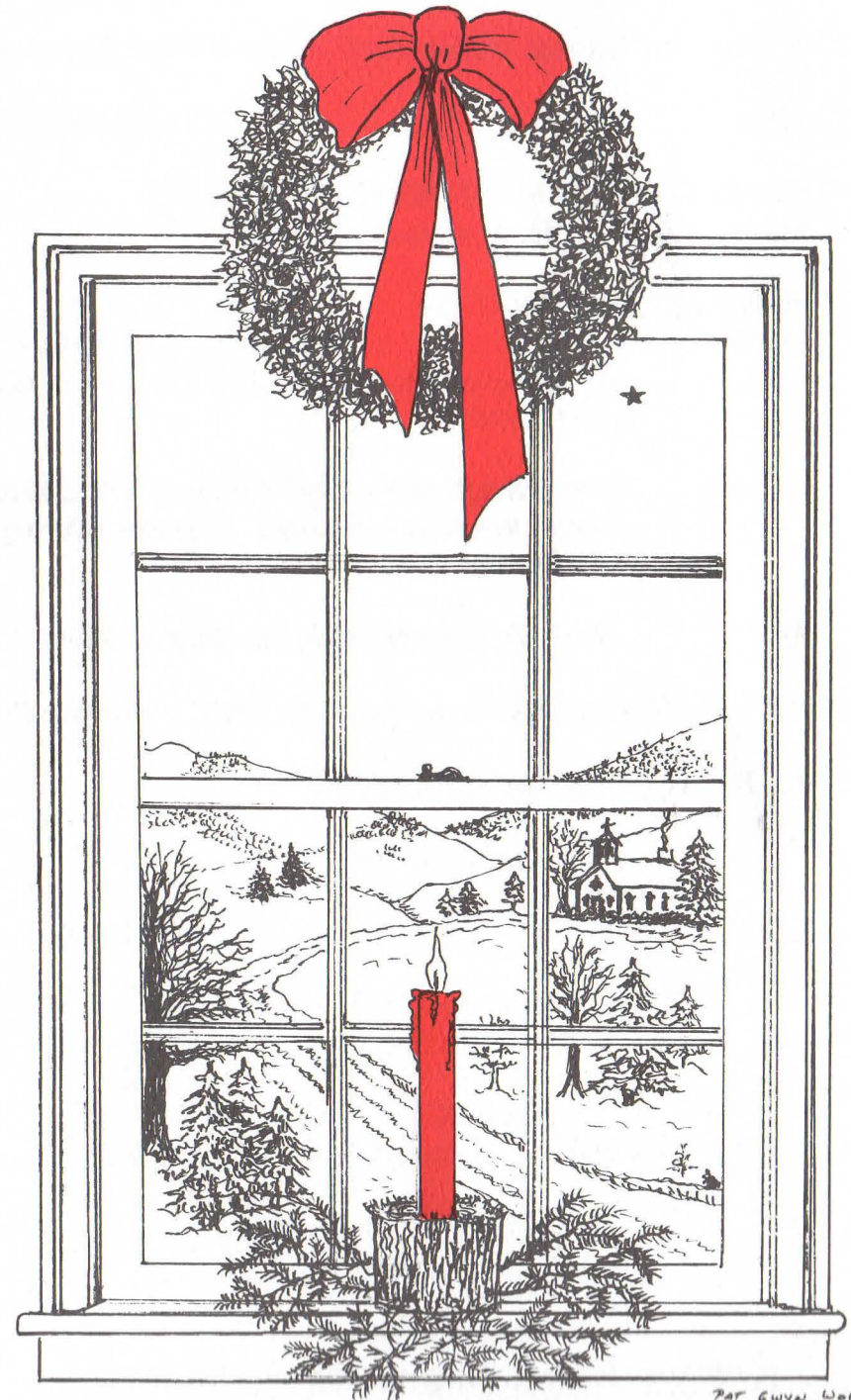
Chancel Choir

Christian Hinkle, trumpet
Eddie Slate, trumpet
James T. Midkiff, trombone
Derrik Hiatt, trombone
Tommy Beamer, timpani

(GIFTS OF MONEY FOR OUR WHITE CHRISTMAS FAMILIES,
AS WELL AS FOOD ITEMS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE
CHANCEL AT THIS TIME.

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

1. *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.*
2. *Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*
3. *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.*
4. *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.*



WHITE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 1999

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

PRELUDE: Carol Rauch, Harp

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR AND ADVENT CANDLES:

Acolytes: Alex Ledford, Michael Rader

THE CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION:

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O ye gates; And be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; And the King of Glory shall come in.

People: Who is the King of Glory? A baby born in a stable. A man teaching us to love. A Savior offering us Life Eternal.

All: The Lord of Host, He is the King of Glory.

*HYMN NO. 238 "Angels We Have Heard On High" French Carol

"A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT"

Carols (see insert)

"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

(Children - verses 1 & 2, Congregation - verses 3 & 4)

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
(Children)

"What Child Is This?"

(Children - verse 1, Congregation - verses 2 & 3)

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
(Children)

"The First Noel"

(Children - verse 1, Congregation - verses 2 & 3)

ANTHEM:

S. Barham

"What Can I Give Him?"
Youth Choir Girls Ensemble

PRESENTATION OF WHITE CHRISTMAS GIFTS:

The Harpist will play as the congregation brings White Christmas Gifts to the Altar. (Please come to the chancel down the center aisle at the direction of the ushers and return to the pews by the side aisles. Candles will be distributed as you leave the chancel area.)

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

SOLO: A. Adam

"O Holy Night"
Christine Menear, soprano

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Pastor: In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

People: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

All: We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, full of grace and truth.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

As we sing "Silent Night", the light from the Advent Candle is passed to each person seated on the center aisle. This person in turn will light the candle of the next person until all the candles in the congregation are lighted. Be sure the lighted candles are held upright and let the person next to you light their candle from yours.

HYMN NO. 239 "Silent Night, Holy Night" Mohr

*RECESSIONAL "Joy To The World" Watts
(see back cover)

The congregation will leave the sanctuary at the direction of the ushers. As you go, the light of God's love goes with you. May your Christmas and New Year be filled with the blessings of God.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

*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.*

*Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

*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.*

*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

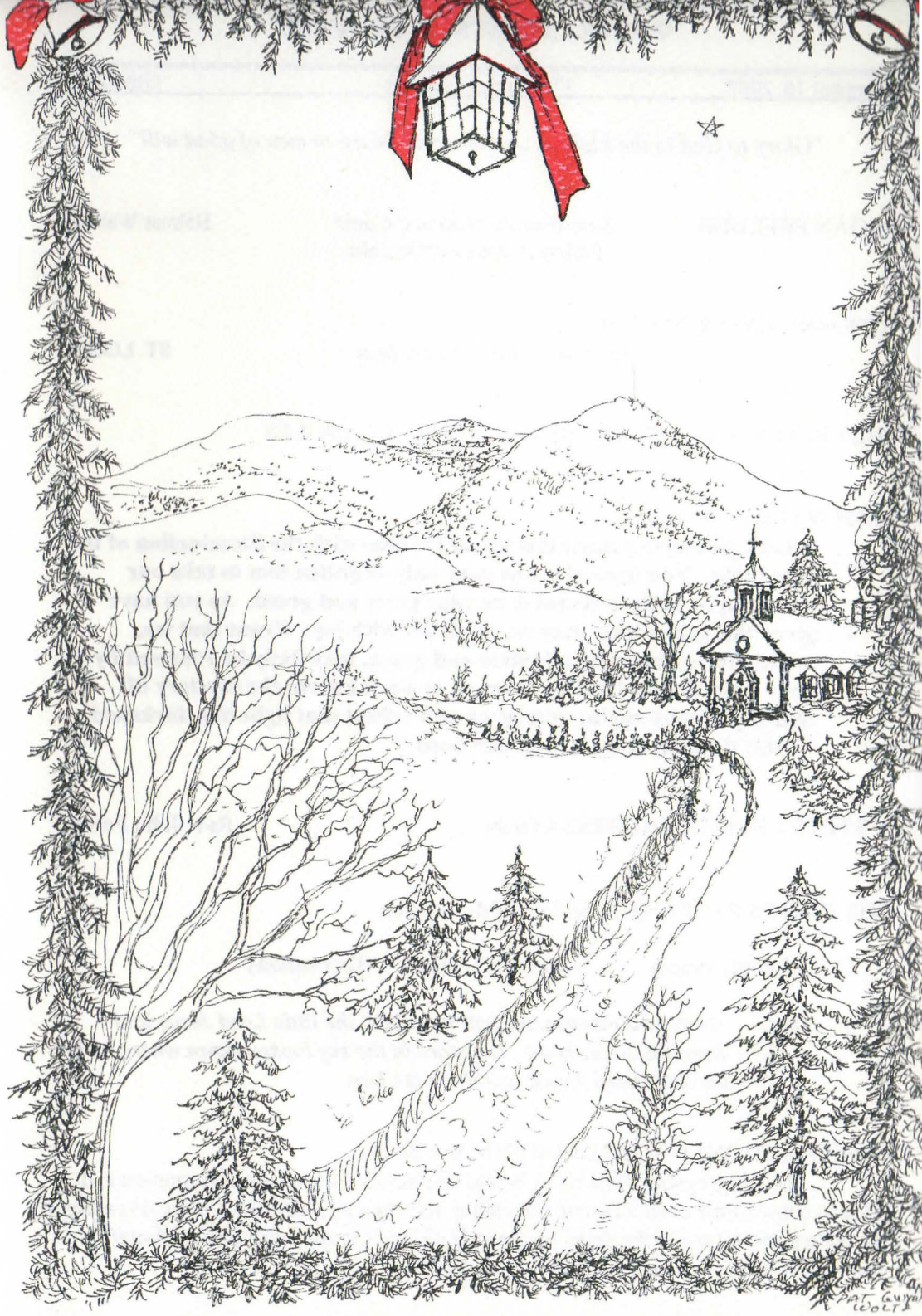
JOY TO THE WORLD

*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.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding
joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*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.*

*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.*



WHITE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 16, 2007 3rd Sunday of Advent 7:00 P.M.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will"

ORGAN PRELUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* Helmut Walcha
Rickey D. Johnson, Organist

OPENING HYMN, NO. 230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

THE LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR AND ADVENT CANDLES

UNISON PRAYER

O God, you have caused this world to shine with the illumination of the true Light. You have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him to reveal to us your glory and grace. As you have given this gift in love, may we receive it with joy. Grant that we, made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit. Grant us that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also reflect that light to a darkened world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WHITE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION Rev. John Ferree

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT: Children of the Church

A Family Prayer *Away In a Manger* (first stanza)

Text: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

PRESENTATION OF WHITE CHRISTMAS GIFTS:

The congregation will bring White Christmas Gifts to the communion rail. Please come to the chancel down the center aisle one pew at a time at the direction of the ushers and return to the pews by the side aisles. Candles will be distributed as you leave the chancel area returning to your seats.)

ACT OF PRAISE

O Holy Night
Art Bloom, Soloist

Adolphe Adam

Text: O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth; long, lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born, O night divine! Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand; so, led the light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wisemen from the orient land. The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend; He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger; behold your King! Before the lowly bend! Behold your king, before Him bend! Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus, raise we, let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, His power and glory evermore proclaim.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Rev. John Ferree

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

As we sing "Silent Night", the light from the Advent Candle is passed to each person seated on the center aisle. This person in turn will light the candle of the next person until all candles are lighted. Be sure the lighted candles are held upright and let the person next to you light their candle from yours.

*HYMN	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i> (see back cover)	STILLE NACHT
*RECESSIONAL	<i>Joy To The World</i> (see back cover)	ANTIOCH

The congregation will leave the sanctuary at the direction of the ushers. As you go, the light of God's love goes with you. May your Christmas and New Year be filled with the warmth and joy of God's love. Please deposit your extinguished candles in the containers in the narthex.

*We welcome Art Bloom of Winston-Salem as our guest soloist. A much sought after performer, he has appeared as soloist in productions of Handel's **Messiah**, Mozart's **Requiem** and Faure's **Requiem**. As a composer, he is the winner of the International Composer's Award for his song "L'Chaim Yisrael", composed for the 50th anniversary of Israel. Currently, he is the Cantorial Soloist, Music Director and Music Education Director for Temple Emanuel. He is also President of The Bloom Agency – a marketing, advertising and public relations agency.*

Bulletin cover by Pat Gwyn Woltz

Acolytes: Alexis Payne, Elise Holcomb

The poinsettias in the fellowship hall are given in loving memory of Dorabelle Sykes

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

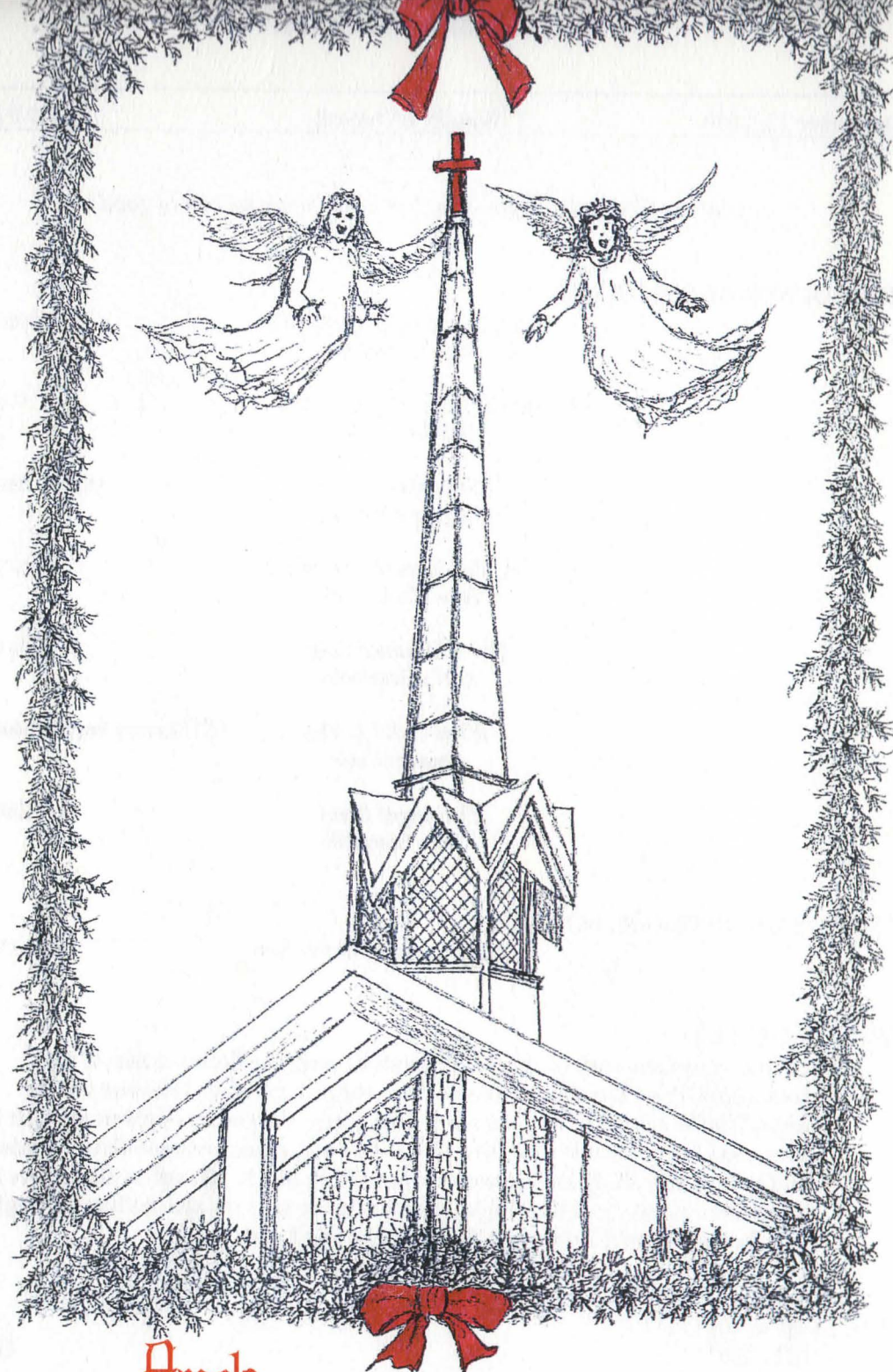
*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

*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.*

*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

*Text by : Joseph Mohr
Tune by: Franz Gruber*



Angels
Praise the Lord



