

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

DECEMBER 24, 2025 • 5 P.M. & 7 P.M.



Organ and Brass Preludes

Debbie Smith and Brass Quartet

Music of the Season

(Please stand and face the minister at the rear of the Sanctuary.)

***Opening Sentences of Worship**

Mark Rector (5 p.m.) and Congregation

Wayne Splawn (7 p.m.)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Our wait is over.

People: The Messiah is come.

Leader: Our watch is ended.

People: Our Deliverer is here.

Leader: Our hope is fulfilled.

People: A Savior is born.

Leader: Our worship is complete,

People: Immanuel, God is with us.

All: In the love of Christ, fully lived out, we are born again. Praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace..."

(Please face forward now and sing with conviction.)

***Carol of Procession**

Congregation

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

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!

God of God, Light of light, Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Very God, begotten, not created: 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, sing all ye citizens of heav'n above. Glory to God in the highest, 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 all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us
adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

***Invocation and Welcome to Worshipers**

Wayne Splawn

The Reading of God's Word

Mary Splawn

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-20.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 2:1-20

Choral Proclamation

Sanctuary Choir

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

by Kely Hatley

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (Glory to God in the highest!)

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Ethan McVay (5 p.m.) and Congregation

Amy Hirsch (7 p.m.)

CHRIST

Leader: Our journey of hope, peace, joy, and love brings us here. Our searching for light and life culminates with the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Tonight we light the Christ Candle.

People: **Jesus Christ is our hope. Our souls are at peace, and our hearts are full of joy. God has kept his promise and has shown his love for us in sending his Son, Jesus. The promise of a Savior is fulfilled this night!**

Leader: Because Christ has come, we can live beyond mere circumstance. Now we live in the reality that the Lord of the world has come. By this light we see the ways in which we should walk to serve each other and the world.

People: **God, in Jesus we see the Word made flesh. In knowing Jesus, we find our rest. We set our burdens aside and kneel at his manger bed.**

Leader: Born to us and the whole world is the long-expected Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. In Jesus we have security and the assurance that God keeps his promise of love to us.

People: **Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!** (*2 Corinthians 9:15*)

Advent Candle Response

Congregation

Light the Light, the Fire of Life

by Dan R. Edwards

Light the light, the fire of life, let the candle reveal his glory. Jesus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come again.

Choir only: Light the candle of his birth, Advent's promise now fulfilling. Light the candle of his birth, light the light of Christmas Eve.

The Reading of God's Word

Joel Burks (5 p.m.)
Amy Hirsch (7 p.m.)

Titus 2:11-14

Choral Message

Sanctuary Choir

Candle Carol

by K. Lee Scott

Christmas candle, softly glowing, warmth and light diffusing 'round; symbol of our Savior's presence, love from heav'n to earth come down. Shedding glory, matchless story of Christ Jesus' humble birth; he from starry realms of heaven deigned to visit us on earth.

In this blessed, glorious season, time of beauty, joy, and peace; time of mercy, time of sharing, in our hearts thy light increase. Kindle loving, kindle caring; pierce our gloomy, selfish night. Lift our eyes on high to see thee, Jesus Christ, true Light of light.

Christmas candle, softly glowing, shining, glimm'ring on our sight; symbol of our Savior's presence; Jesus Christ, true Light of light.

Message

Wayne Splawn

"Fear Not!"

Luke 2:1-20

The Celebration of the Ordinance of Holy Communion

(If you have gluten allergies, a tray of gluten-free wafers has been placed on a table in the Narthex. Please take one to your seat so you may participate.)

We Receive the Bread and Cup

(Please sing the printed carols as the elements are passed.)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

CAROL

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 wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. 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.

What Child Is This
GREENSLEEVES

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, spears 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 the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Away in a Manger
MUELLER

Away in a manger no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky look 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.

***The Exchange of the Peace of Christ**

Wayne Splawn

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please greet one another saying: "The peace of Christ to you." / "And also with you.")

Post Communion Prayer

Wayne Splawn and Congregation

All: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen!

Choral Message

Sanctuary Choir

O Holy Night
arr. John Rutter
Soloist: Caroline Hatley

Service of Candle Lighting

(Printed at the request of Mountain Brook Fire Department)

Candle Safety: Please supervise children. Please tip the unlit candle to the lighted candle when passing the flame. Hold the lit candle upright to minimize wax spillage.

***Candlelight Carol**

Congregation

Silent Night
STILLE NACHT

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, darkness flies, all is light; shepherds hear the angels sing,
“Alleluia! Hail the King! 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.

Congregation raises candles.

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.

***Christmas Blessing**

Wayne Splawn

***Closing Carol**

Congregation

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
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 th’angelic hosts 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
th’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 Sun 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.”

***Closing Benediction**

Kely Hatley and Congregation

Leader: Go forth into the world with joy!

People: Thanks be to God!

Organ Postlude

Debbie Smith

Toccata on Joy to the World
by Craig Phillips

*congregation standing

Amplified-hearing devices are available in the Narthex. Please see a greeter for assistance.

This Week

Offices are open Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 (CHRISTMAS DAY) & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

CLC and Church Offices Closed. Merry Christmas!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

No Sunday School

9 a.m. Churchwide Fellowship

10 a.m. Combined Worship | Sanctuary

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 & FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

CLC and Church Offices Closed. Happy New Year!

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Dr. Wayne Splawn, Senior Minister

Mr. John Piede, Deacon Chair

Mr. Vince Blackerby, Director of Operations

Mr. Joel Burks, Minister to Students

Dr. Kely Hatley, Minister of Music and ACTIVE Christian Living

Mrs. Amy Hirsch, Associate Minister for Membership and Pastoral Care

Mrs. Sharon Howard, Minister to Children and Families

Mr. Ethan McVay, Minister to Preteen and Junior High Students

Mr. Mark Rector, Associate Minister

Mrs. Mary Splawn, Minister of Connections

For the full list of our church staff, please see mbbc.org/staff.

Ways to Give



IN PERSON

Place your gift in the designated spot in the Narthex.



ONLINE

To give online, visit mbbc.org/give.



TEXT

Text STOREHOUSE to 73256.

To access our Wi-Fi network, choose MBBC Guest (password 803-3452).