

LEADER: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

WE THREE KINGS

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star

*O Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy Perfect Light*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign (*chorus*)

Frankincense to offer have, Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God most high (*chorus*)

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume, Breathes of life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb (*chorus*)

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia, Earth to heav'n replies (*chorus*)

The Announcement

Promise Made - Isaiah 40:3-5, 9

LEADER: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned.

PEOPLE: **A voice cries:**

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

LEADER: Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

Promise Fulfilled in Christ - Luke 2:8-14

LEADER: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

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

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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 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 th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh 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!"

Little Drummer Boy - Fred Hudson

The Place—Bethlehem

Promise Made - Isaiah 11:1-2

LEADER: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.

PEOPLE: And a branch shall grow out of his roots.

LEADER: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

PEOPLE: The spirit of wisdom and understanding.

LEADER: The spirit of counsel and might.

PEOPLE: The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

LEADER: “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Promise Fulfilled in Christ - Luke 2:4-5, 15

LEADER: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

When 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.”

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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

The Cradle

Promise Made - Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7

LEADER: The Lord himself will give you a sign.

PEOPLE: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.

LEADER: And they shall name him Emmanuel,

PEOPLE: Which means, God is with us.

LEADER: But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish.

PEOPLE: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

LEADER: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Promise Fulfilled in Christ - Luke 2:6-7, 16-19

LEADER: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was not room for them in the inn.”

And the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

When Love Was Born - Brooke Bailey, Claire Gottshalk, Hayley McDonald

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

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.

MEDITATION

from Luke 2:1-7

The Light

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **John 1:1-5**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

—*The Christ Candle*

With this lighting of the Christ Candle we rejoice with prophets, angels, and Mary and Joseph in welcoming Christ! Our hope has arrived! Thank you Father, for sending us your Son.

May this light remind us of the hope we all carry because God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SILENT 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. (*repeat*)

The Commission

Jesus, the Light said:

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” **Matthew 5:14-16**

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. (*chorus*)

The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus,
that hailed our Savior's birth. (*chorus*)

Down in a lowly manger,
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. (*chorus*)

Welcome to
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Charleston, SC

Redeemer Presbyterian exists to glorify God as a Gospel presence in downtown Charleston by being a grace-filled community that worships Christ and develops disciples who serve Him in our families, neighborhoods, and the nations.

We're thrilled you've joined us tonight for our special Christmas Eve service! We hope you are filled with awe, adoration, gratitude, hope, and joy as we reflect on the marvelous gift that God has given unto us.

We welcome children at this service, and there's a special portion geared for them on page 5; however, no **childcare** is offered during this service. There are **restrooms** and water coolers in the Education building next door on both the first and second floors.

If you're joining us for the first time tonight, we're so glad you're spending your Christmas Eve with us. We'd love to have you join us on Sunday mornings, too!

Christian-Education Hour (like Sunday School) - 9:15 am

Worship Service - 10:30 am

*For 12/31, we will only have a worship service.

Find plenty more information about the Redeemer family and its ministries on our website: **redeemer-charleston.org**. Or call our church office at 843-724-1164.