

REID MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 2024—6:30pm



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2261 Walton Way, Augusta, Georgia 30904  
706-733-2275      reidchurhaugusta.org

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

INTROIT

*If You Would Hear the Angels Sing*

David Williams

*If you would hear the angels sing, "Peace on earth and mercy mild,"  
Think of him who was once a child on Christmas Day in the morning.*

*If you would hear the angels sing, Christians!  
See you let each door wider stand than e'er before,  
On Christmas Day in the morning.*

*Rise, and open wide the door; Christians, rise! The world is wide,  
Many are they who stand outside, Yet Christmas comes in the morning.*

*If you would hear the angels sing, Rise and spread your Christmas fare;  
Still the merrier more who share on Christmas Day in the morning.*

*If you would hear the angels sing, Rise, and light your Christmas fire;  
Pile the logs on ever higher on Christmas Day in the morning.*

*Rise, and bake your Christmas bread; Christians, rise! The world is old,  
Time is weary and worn and cold, Yet Christmas comes in the morning.*

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Ms. Jan Markle

\*CALL TO WORSHIP <sup>1</sup>

Dr. Casto-Waters

The impossible is about to happen in a stable. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them the light has shined!**

This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath, for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.

**This is evening when God embraced humanity as one of us, called us kindred, loved us from the beginning.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let us worship the Lord with hope and joy!**

\*CAROL #133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Boyd Lien

**Holy Wonder, Holy Light, we come to stand beneath your star with awe and just a little fear. How will we manage to follow you when our feet walk in crooked paths? How will we manage to praise you with timid voices and faltering songs? How will we share your love when we are only beginning to understand what your love is all about? For all our questions, Lord, you have answered us in Christ saying *unto you a Savior is born*. If all we can hold before us this night is this miraculous news, then help us to hold it near and cherish the wonder of it all in our hearts.**

\*SILENT PRAYER

\*ASSURANCE

God so loved the world that he sent his only son. A child of lowly birth, a savior of humble means, a hope for the world that overwhelms the despair and darkness to bring us new light and new life.

**Glory to God in the highest whose love has redeemed us and claimed us in Christ's name. Alleluia! Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

GLORIA

OFFERTORY

*O Holy Night*

arr. Richard A. Nichols  
(b. 1940)

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; it is the night of our 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, O hear the angels voices!  
O night, divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine, O night divine!*

*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! O praise His name forever!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!  
O holy night, O night divine!*

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE CAROL #134

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

*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 earth, 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 sin and sorrow 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.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

MEDITATION

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

CANDLELIGHTING

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing comes into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness was not overcome by it.**

*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, heav'nly 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."*

\*BENEDICTION

Dr. Casto-Waters

Here we have heard the promise of the prophets.

We have caught the notes of the angel's song.

We have seen a star in the heavens and we have believed,

**That Christ is the Light of the World.**

Let us go forth from this place bearing his light in the darkness.

Let us go forth crying aloud with heavenly host;

**Glory to God in the Highest. Peace on earth. Goodwill to all.**

Merry Christmas.

**Merry Christmas.**

\*All who are able please stand

## Participating in Worship



**Preacher**

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

Rev. Boyd Lien

Ms. Joy Maple

**Musicians**

Dr. Wayne Lord

Chancel Choir

**String Quartet**

Ryan Kuo, Violin

Laura Tomlin, Violin

Carl Purdy, Viola

Christine Crookall, Cello

**String Quartet**—The gift of the string quartet is to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the lives of Shannon Fritsche and Sylvia Clark.

**Music**—Music is reprinted by permission through OneLicense.net #A-721337

<sup>1</sup> inspired by Isaiah 9:2, John 1:1, 14, Bruce Prewer, adapted



**Hearing assistance.** Hearing aid wearers with a "T" (telecoil) setting can now hear the service broadcast directly through their hearing aids. Others desiring hearing assistance may check out a portable receiver / headset.