



NORTHSIDE CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

*Christmas Parables:
Christmas Lights*

December 21, 2025



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

There is a place for you at Northside Church to know the love of God,
to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and to go into the world to serve others.

† Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

THE PRELUDE | Good Christian Friends, Rejoice | *arr. Joseph Martin*

Susan Schreer Davis & Joshua McClure

THE ADVENT GREETING

Nathan Schreer

THE HYMN OF ADVENT | Hymn 211: stanzas 1 & 6 | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine Ad - vent here;
that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Text: 9th century Latin & Music: copyright 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund.

THE WELCOME

8:30AM | Rev. Nancy Yarnell

11:15AM | Rev. Catherine Boothe Olson

† THE CALL TO WORSHIP

8:30AM | Rev. Yarnell

11:15AM | Rev. Boothe Olson

Pastor: “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.” We come this
Advent to worship, Emmanuel — our love and our light, who dwells among us.

People: **We gather in this season of waiting and watching for the coming of our Lord.**

Pastor: We come to lift our voices, to open our hearts, to prepare the way of Christ among us.

People: **We proclaim, “Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice.”
Praise be to God. Amen.**

† THE HYMN OF ADORATION | Hymn 224: all stanzas | Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

† THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

Nathan Schreer

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

† THE GLORIA PATRI | Hymn 70

† THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

8:30AM | Rev. Yarnell
11:15AM | Rev. Boothe Olson

THE ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

8:30AM | The Brigman Family
11:15AM | The Watkins & Sipe Family

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."
People: **Love shines where shadows once ruled.**
Leader: Whoever follows Jesus Christ will never walk in darkness—
People: **for we have the light of life.**
Leader: We come to walk in the way of love. We light the Candle of Love.
People: **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

THE MINISTRY MOMENT | 75th Christmas Ornament

8:30AM | Dr. Bill Burch
11:15AM | Rev. Boothe Olson

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS | 11:15AM

Dr. Burch

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM | 11:15AM

Dr. Burch

Wesley Hill

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE | 11:15AM

Rev. Boothe Olson

**With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ,
that [name], surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith,
and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

THE BAPTISM RESPONSE | Hymn 611: stanza 1 | Child of Blessing, Child of Promise | 11:15AM

**Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign.
With this water God has sealed you, unto love and grace divine**

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT | 11:15AM

Mary Bingham

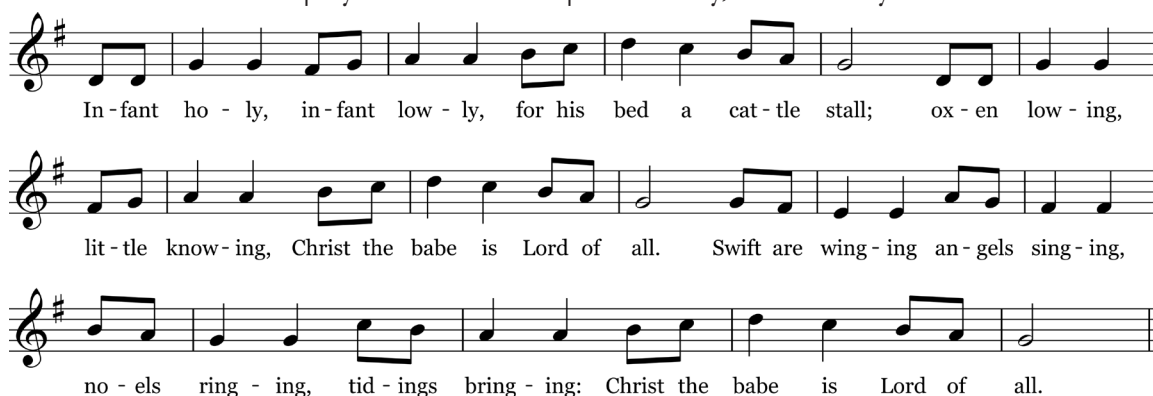
We invite all children to come to the chancel steps for a special message.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

8:30AM | Rev. Yarnell
11:15AM | Rev. Boothe Olson

**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. Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION | Hymn 229: stanza 1 | Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



In-fant ho - ly, in-fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall; ox - en low - ing,
lit - tle know - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing,
no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Pastor: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON | “Christmas Parables: Christmas Lights”

Dr. Burch

† THE HYMN OF RESPONSE | Hymn 378: stanzas 1, 3, 4 & 6 | Amazing Grace

THE GIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

8:30AM | Rev. Yarnell
11:15AM | Rev. Boothe Olson

Give online at www.NorthsideUMC.org/donate or text NorthsideATL to 73256.

THE OFFERTORY | God's Great Love | *arr. Keith Christopher*

Chancel Choir

Let us sing of God's great love, in a manger lay;
The precious gift from God's own heart, born on Christmas day.

Angels sang of God's great love, shepherds bowed their knee
as they worshipped heaven's child, Christ, the newborn King.

Prophets had foretold it, the Father's wonderful plan:
Jesus, our Messiah, God's great love to man. Alleluia. I will praise You, Lord, alleluia!

Let us sing of God's great love, all our earthly days.
And give Him praise He's worthy of, now and for always. God's great love!

† THE DOXOLOGY | *Tune:* The First Noel

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

† THE BENEDICTION

8:30AM | Rev. Yarnell & 11:15AM | Dr. Burch

† THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE | Hymn 251: refrain | Go, Tell It on the Mountain



Adapt. and arr. 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

THE POSTLUDE | Go Tell It on the Mountain | *arr. Mark Hayes*

Susan Schreer Davis & Joshua McClure

CLERGY

Dr. Bill Burch, *Senior Pastor* • Rev. Catherine Boothe Olson, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Angela House, *Associate Pastor*

AFFILIATED CLERGY

Dr. G. Gil Watson, *Pastor Emeritus* • Dr. Ann Brightwell McCord, *Retired*
Rev. Nancy Yarnell, *Retired* • Rev. Douglas Herlong • Rev. Jennifer Hansen

TRADITIONAL MUSIC MINISTRY

Joshua McClure, *Director of Worship & Organist* • Nathan Schreer, *Director of Music*