

Poinsettias

In memory:

Ronald Walton and Taylor Mathews by Jimmy and Tracy Livengood

Mickey LeCroy by Judy LeCroy and Family

Eldon and Hazel Engstrom by Linda Engstrom

Jeanne Davis by Sandra Westervelt and Dan Davis

Lonnie Davis by Sandra Westervelt and Dan Davis

Linwood and Mary Jennings by William and Melinda Hartley and Family

Harry and Sarah Hartley by William and Melinda Hartley and Family

In honor:

Ray and Joyce Howell by Linda Engstrom

Sterling and Tina Wall by Hazel Frady

2015 Financial Update

\$674,636 - 2015 Budgeted Contributions from membership

\$540,422 - Contributions through November

\$134,214 - Needed in December

First Baptist Office and MBCC will be closed December 24, 25, and January 1

Christmas Lights Tomorrow Night

All children and their families are invited to visit the Christmas lights at Ray and Joyce Howell's home (243 N. Miners Trail) from sunset to 8:00 p.m. tomorrow night (Monday). Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Please bring a flashlight to walk down the drive.

Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 24 5:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Arrive early for this tradition of candlelight and communion. We will close the Advent season with the singing of "Silent Night" while the Sanctuary is illuminated by candles and filled with the anticipation of Christmas Day.

Special Christmas Eve Offering

We will be receiving a special offering at the Christmas Eve Service to help our church reach our budgetary commitments for 2015. If every family would consider a special Christmas gift in addition to their regular gift, it would make a tremendous difference. We invite you to come to the Christmas Eve Service prepared to make a special Christmas gift.

Year End Giving 2015

Please have all gifts to the church on or before Thursday, December 31 in order to receive credit for 2015 tax deductions.

Informal Worship Sunday, December 27

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School - 11:00 a.m. - Worship

We will worship "informally." Dress casually. There will not be a bulletin or order of service. Feel free to share a Christmas story, a testimony, a song, a Scripture or a prayer. We will sing your favorite Christmas hymns.

Global Missions Offering

This is the time of year that we give a special offering to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship for missions. You have a Missions envelope in your packet or just mark your check for CBF Global Mission offering. May we give so others can serve.



The Forty-second Annual Festival Of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	Robert Farlee
GREETING		Dr. Ray Howell III
OFFERTORY PRAYER		Brannon Gilliam
OFFERTORY	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	arr. David Cherwien
PROCESSIONAL	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	arr. Dr. William G. Harbinson
	(solo)	<i>Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.</i>
	(choir only)	<i>He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall: With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth, our Savior holy.</i>
	(congregation and choir)	<i>Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, We shall see Him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; When like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around. And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love; For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above, And He leads His children on to the place where He has gone.</i>
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH		Sarah and Mary Evann Thornhill
BIDDING PRAYER		Rev. Tommy Wilson
FIRST LESSON	Adam And Eve Rebel Against God	Wake Hamrick
ANTHEM	<i>The Lord at First Did Adam Make</i>	David deSilva
SECOND LESSON	God Promises To Faithful Abraham That His Descendants Will Be A Blessing To All The Nations Of The Earth	Ethan Houser
ANTHEM	<i>Blessed Is the Lord</i>	Dan Forrest
THIRD LESSON	A Voice Cries In The Wilderness Preparing The Way Of The Lord	Lois Perryman
ANTHEM	<i>O Come to Us, Emmanuel</i>	Joseph Martin
FOURTH READING	That Christ Is To Be Born In Bethlehem Is Foretold	Deb Watson

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN (congregation seated) O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. John Rutter

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.

FIFTH READING

**The Angel Gabriel Announces To Mary
That She Will Be The Mother Of Jesus**

Betty Jane Honeycutt

ANTHEM

Nativity Carol

arr. John Rutter

SIXTH READING

Saint Luke Tells Of The Birth Of Christ

Kriston Jolly

ANTHEM

The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

Dan Forrest

SEVENTH READING

The Shepherds Go To Bethlehem

Paul Freeman

CAROL (congregation seated)

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

arr. John Rutter

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around, And glory shone around.

"Fear not!" Said he; for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind,
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
To you and all mankind, To you and all mankind.

To you, in David's town,
This day is born, of David's line,
The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign;

All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav'n to men,
Begin and never cease; Begin and never cease!

EIGHTH READING

The Magi Visit The Messiah

Rev. Tommy Wilson

ANTHEM

Child in the Manger

Jay Rouse

NINTH READING

Saint John Unfolds The Great Mystery Of The Incarnation Dr. Ray Howell III

CAROL (congregation standing)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. John Rutter

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.

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Dr. Ray Howell III

CAROL (congregation standing)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born 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 new born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

BENEDICTION

God So Loved The World

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Praise Ye, the Lord of Hosts

arr. Albin Whitworth

*The flowers in the baptistery are given to the glory of God by Parker and Joanne McLendon in
memory of Frances McLendon and Novella McLendon Tyler.*

