

The *Glory* of Christmas

Celebrating  
Christ's Birth

*featuring choir,  
orchestra, and  
narration*

*composed by  
Lloyd Larson*



December 18th, 2022

**SAPC is offering a “Blue Christmas” Service on December 21st at 6pm.**

This service is offered for those struggling with this time of year. Events take place at this time of the year that simply make celebration impossible — illness, sudden death of a loved one, or the burden of caring for a loved one, the loss of a job, financial difficulties, strained family relations, divorce or separation. For some people, Christmas may simply bring up memories of a difficult and troubled past. Perhaps a spouse, child, or parent has been taken away to fight a war. And for some, they have been confronted with their own mortality, having been told that this may be their own last Christmas.

*A Blue Christmas Service Makes Space for Healing & Hope during this Season.*

**Don't miss out!**

There will be a **“Christmas Eve Candlelight Service”** on **December 24th at 5pm.**

*Also, don't forget to attend to our worship on Sunday, Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of our Savior.*

**Poinsettias Dedications**

Greg & Lynn Burkes, in memory of their parents, Marilyn & Bob Kierspe and Nell & Lamar Burkes.

Greg & Lynn Burkes, in honor of Alice Kierspe.

Barbara Knapp, in memory of mother, Ann McDaniel.

Elsie Worpell, in memory of Roger.

Martin & Julie McCrum, in memory of loved ones and grandchildren.

Jenny Chase, in memory of Ken.

Alice Kierspe, in memory of her husband, Bob Kierspe.

Paul Ebel, in memory of Susan.

Jim & Mary Barber, in memory of their parents.

Felder & Dot McLauren, in memory of brother, J.W. & Vincent Sparks.

Hank & Bonnie Hayes, in loving memory of our mothers, Mildred Lowery & Sarah Bullock.

Greg & Kath & Emily Peterson, in memory of their family members.

Phillip & Becky Campbell Hare, in memory of Rev. Lee Roy Campbell.

Phillip & Becky Hare, in memory of Rev. Marion Hare.

Ken & Marilyn Hofstetter, to honor our families.

Carl & Jackie Scherman, in memory of Richard Kimura and Torao Kimura.

Lynn Shepard, in loving memory of her mom, Fern Baker.

Lynn Shepard, in loving memory of her dad, Bob Baker.

Robert & Cheryl Glance, in memory of Catherine & Wendell Glance.

Robert & Cheryl Glance, in honor of their family.

Keely Rhodes in honor of service men & women who are not home for the holidays.



(Please stand, if able, when indicated by an \*)

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Chrystie Weimer (Pulpit Assistant, PA)**

**The Chiming** (*Handbell is rung three times, for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*)

**Introit**

**“Come, Emmanuel”**

**by Twila Paris**

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD IN THE SEASON OF LIGHT**

**Lighting of the of Advent Candle** (*Responsively*) (HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE): **The Stennet Family**

Reader: In this season of Advent, we light the candle for Hope to symbolize that God through Jesus Christ’s birth bringing gives hope to another way of relating nation to nation (*light candle*). We light the candle of Peace which symbolizes the Peace given to all humanity in accepting Jesus Christ’s new way of living amidst the communities (*light candle*). We light the candle of Joy with the understanding that all of creation that is dry will burst forth in rejoicing and singing as Jesus the Christ is born (*light the pink candle*).

**ALL: Let us walk in the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Christ.**

**\*Call to Worship** (*Psalm 96: 1-3*) (*Read responsively*):

One: O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**ALL: Sing to the LORD; bless the Lord’s name; tell of The Lord’s salvation from day to day.**

One: Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.

**\*Hymn #611**

**“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

**Prayer of Confession** (*Unison*): Loving God, we confess that sometimes our joy is not shown in our areas of life and worship. We sometimes think too much about our sin and not enough on the joy of the resurrection. Help us, O God, find the joy in the divine coming into world that is beyond presents, peoples’ judgement and fears in any form. Forgive us, O God, for not embracing the joy and love found in Jesus Christ’s coming into the world.

*(Pause and confess your personal sin in silence to God)*

PA: Amen.

**Assurance of Forgiveness** (*Responsively*):

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

**ALL: We declare God’s promises, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

One: May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness,

**ALL: And by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.**

PA (*Responsively*): As we hear and see the water poured into the baptismal font, let us embrace our forgiveness in Jesus Christ which brings joy.

**The Font** *(Water is poured as a visual sign of the washing away of sin and the bonding to Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.)*

**\*Passing the Peace**

PA: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.** *(share fist bumps, high fives, hugs, and other signs of forgiveness and peace to each other.)*

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Minute of Mission**

**Mary Bunch**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology: Hymn #606 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"**  
**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. Amen**

**ENCOUNTERING THE WORD OF GOD AND MUSIC**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**The Glory of Christmas** by Lloyd Larson

# The Glory of Christmas

## Celebrating Christ's Birth

In a panoramic view of Christmas we see the majesty, the color, the sounds, and even the solemnity of this glorious season! We witness the anguish of God's chosen people as it gives way to joy in the fulfillment of an eternal promise - that God would send a Messiah to save them. The entire spectrum of God's love and grace is on full display in the story of Christmas.

But the message of Christmas is not solely for a people who lived long ago. It is a message that our world needs to hear today. It is for young and old alike, for people of every tribe and nation regardless of one's station in life. The Christmas Story is filled with hope, promise, wonder, majesty, and mystery. It is a perpetual reminder that in the darkest moments of life, the brilliance of the eternal Light of Christ has entered our world to guide us on the journey of life and faith.

So, sing the songs of Christmas! Celebrate its message and embrace this gracious gift from God: Jesus becoming human and living among us for a while so that we might live eternally with our Creator. This is the glory of Christmas!

- Lloyd Larson, composer and arranger

There are a few moments in the service where the congregation is invited to sing traditional hymn arrangements with the choir.

When the lyrics to the song are **bolded** throughout the program, please feel free to sing along!

## The Program

**Narrators:** Carl Scherman and Angela Clifford

Traditional lyrics

### **The Glory of Christmas!** *Come and Worship the Newborn King*

Arr. Lloyd Larson

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Gloria; hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria; hosanna in excelsis!

**Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis deo!**

Gloria; hosanna in excelsis!

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring;  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful Kin's birth.

All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night.  
Glory to God in highest heav'n;  
Now and ever more, Amen!

Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn king!

Traditional lyrics

### **Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning**

Arr. Lloyd Larson  
African American Spiritual  
Quoting "EST IST EIN ROS'  
*Alte Catholische Geistliche  
Kirchengasang, 1599*

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Keep your lamps trimmed and burning;  
the time is drawing nigh.  
Children, don't grow weary;  
for the time is drawing nigh.  
Darker midnight lies before us;  
The time is drawing nigh!

See the morning star, the star arising;  
the time is drawing nigh!

Children, don't grow weary;  
the time is drawing nigh!

Now our night will soon be over;  
the time is drawing nigh!

Words by Lloyd Larson  
Based on Isaiah 40:1-5

## Prepare the Way of the Lord

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Lloyd Larson  
Incorporating CRANHAM  
by Gustav T. Holst, 1906.

A voice cries out,  
"Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord."  
The prophet cries out,  
"Prepare the way! Prepare the way of the Lord."

Every valley shall be lifted up;  
Every mountain and hill made low.  
Every crooked path shall be made straight,  
And the rough places plain.  
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

So comfort, comfort, my people,  
Says the Lord God who reigns on high.  
To Jerusalem say, "Your night is gone,  
For the Lord has heard your cry."  
Prepare the way of the Lord!

Words by Lloyd Larson

## Child of Promise, Child of Love

*Soloist: Carina McGee*

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Lloyd Larson

My soul rejoices in the Lord!  
I've seen His love, and His power proclaimed.  
His faithful servant I shall be.  
I'll bear his child, Jesus is his name.

Glory to the Lord Most High!  
He comes to set His people free!  
God with us, Emmanuel;  
the Prince of Peace, for you, for me.

Child of promise, child of love;  
hope of the world, the glory of our God  
who comes from heav'n above.  
Child of promise, child of love.

Gentle Mary laid her Child  
lowly in a manger;  
there He lay, the undefiled,  
to the world a stranger.  
This was the Son of God, of humble birth,

beautiful the story!  
Praise his name in all the earth,  
hail the King of glory!

**Narrators: Scott Reboul and Susan Selden**

Words by **Lloyd Larson**  
and **Charles Wesley, 1739**

## **Jesus is Born Tonight!**

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**Arr. Lloyd Larson**  
Traditional Bohemian Melody  
and *Mendelssohn*, by Felix  
Mendelssohn, 1840

Angels are singing, heavens are ringing,  
Jesus is born tonight!  
Glory to God, the angels are singing;  
good news to all the earth they are bringing:  
"Jesus is born tonight!"

**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!"**

Angels are singing, heavens are ringing,  
Jesus is born tonight!  
Glory to God, the angels are singing;  
good news to all the earth they are bringing:  
"Jesus is born tonight!"

**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 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 newborn King!"**

Angels are singing, heavens are ringing,  
Angels are singing, good news they're bringing.  
Jesus Christ is born tonight!

Words from **Liturgy of St. James**, 4th c.;  
trad. Austrian carol;  
trad. Polish carol

## **Christ Is Born This Holy Night**

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Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded,  
for with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.

Still, still, still;  
Christ is born this night so still.  
For all is hushed,  
the world is sleeping,  
holy star its vigil keeping.

Sleep, sleep, sleep;  
'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.  
The night is peaceful all around Him.  
Humble shepherds kneel before Him.  
Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for His bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging, angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all;  
Christ the Babe is born for you.  
Christ is born this holy night.

**Arr. Lloyd Larson**  
Picardy, trad. French melody  
Still, Still, Still,  
trad. Austrian melody  
W Zlobie Lezy,  
trad. Polish melody

Words by **Reginald Heber**, 1811  
and **John H. Hopkins, Jr.**, 1857

## **Guide Us to the Perfect Light**

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Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and come to our aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our Infant Redeemer is laid,  
guide where our Redeemer is laid.

What shall we give Him, in costly devotion?  
Shall we bring incense and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine,  
bring our myrrh or gold from the mine?

O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

Guide us to the perfect Light.

Arr. new music by **Lloyd Larson**  
Quoting Kings of Orient,  
by John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

## **The Glory of Christmas!**

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Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

He is born, the divine Christ Child,  
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!  
He is born, the holy Child,  
sing we all of the Savior mild.

O how lovely, O how pure  
is this perfect Child of heaven;  
O how lovely, O how pure,  
gracious gift of God sent down.  
He is born, the divine Christ Child,  
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!  
He is born, the holy Child,  
sing we all of the Savior mild.

**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 heav'n 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!**

He is born, the divine Christ Child!  
Gloria!  
He is born, the holy Child!  
Gloria!  
Hosanna in excelsis;  
sing gloria!  
Gloria!

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

# SINGERS

## **Sopranos**

Jayne Becker      Elizabeth Eagerton  
Nancy Goslen      Taylor Kovacs  
Marelle Groteluschen      Carina McGee  
Sandy Haines      Pam Pethick  
Julie Hammond      Jackie Scherman

## **Altos**

Lynn Burkes      Kinsley Richardson  
Mary Cunningham      Marge Talbot  
Becky Hare      Crissy Kuhl  
Marilyn Hofstetter      Lyn VanDervort  
Keely Rhodes

## **Tenors**

Steve Connor      Melissa Major  
Andrew Goslen      Steve Miller  
Paul Jolley      Jacob Mastromonico

## **Bass**

Frank Cunningham  
Ken Hofstetter  
Tom Hollowell  
Alex McGee

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# ORCHESTRA

## **Violin**

Diana Berry  
David Culp  
Liam Culp  
Joey Steel

## **Viola**

Layla Karimian  
Sharde' Hawkins

## **Cello**

Chris Connelly  
Marlee Hare

## **Bass**

Bishop Hare

## **Percussion**

Alex Molina

## **Recorder**

Scott Chappell

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# Special Thanks To...

## **Phillip Hare**

Conductor  
Music Director

## **Scott Chappell**

Accompanist and  
Children's Choir Conductor

## **Susan Selden**

Children's Choir Accompanist

## **Veronica I. Andreassen-Barker**

Aiken KinderChoir Director

## **Michelle Lorio**

Children's Choir Recruitment and  
Coordination

## **Scott Reboul**

Narration Coordinator

## **Larry Hinson**

Sound Coordinator

## **Carina McGee**

Soloist

## **David Culp**

Orchestral Coordinator

*Dear SAPC family,*

*I hope this note find you well during this season of peace, hope, joy and love. As we have done in the past, we will be collecting a Love Offering to honor our wonderful church staff. If you would like to make a contribution to this offering, please do so by December 18 so we can distribute it prior to the Christmas holidays.*

*There are several ways to do this: you may leave an envelope marked "Love Offering" in my box in the church office; you may place your gift in the offering plate clearly marked "Love Offering." If you want to write a check, please make it out to SAPC and put "Love Offering" in the For/Memo line.*

*Many thanks for your gift in honor of our dedicated staff who make sure our children, our buildings, our services, and our community are well taken care of throughout the year.*

*In Christ,*

*Anita Self, Clerk of Session*

## **CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Church Office:** 803-648-9574

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**Fax:** 803-648-7972

**Web Site:** [www.southaiken.org](http://www.southaiken.org)

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*Please turn off your phone during the service*

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Twitter: @SAPChurch and Instagram: southaikenpresbyterian4

## **SAPC STAFF**

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**Scott Chappell**, Pianist/Accompanist, [scotchappell57@icloud.com](mailto:scotchappell57@icloud.com), cell (803) 640-5102

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