

# Christmas Eve Service

## Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

### December 24, 2023

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Prelude "Gesu' Bambino" Pietro A. Yon'

Reading from the Gospel of John 1: 1-5, 9-14 Alex Bryant

\*Hymn # 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Lighting the Christmas Candle The Sessions and Williams Family

Responsive Reading "A Litany for Christmas Eve" Alex Bryant

**Leader:** In our worry about our shortcomings, in our pain as we remember past sins, in our grief over loss of our loved ones, still, O Lord, you come to us.

**All:** Prepare our hearts, O God.

**Leader:** In our darkness, our brokenness, and our need, still, O Lord, you come to us.

**All:** Prepare our hearts, O God.

**Leader:** We live in your beautiful world, O God, remembering the not so beautiful parts, waiting to welcome you and depending on you to light the darkness and heal the brokenness. But you, our Creator, through your gifts, equip us to shine with your light.

**All:** Prepare our hearts, O God.

**Leader:** Enter our world this night, O Lord, and find waiting and willing hearts to receive you. Help us to remember constantly the greatest of all your gifts: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

**All:** Prepare our hearts, O God. Amen.

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer Pastor John Stanley

Reading from Matthew 1:18-25 Alex Bryant

Reading from Luke 2:1-7 Pastor John Stanley

Reading from Matthew 2:1-12

Alex Bryant

Time with Children Why Would God Come as a Baby? Reverend Button

Hymn # 114 "Away in a Manger"

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Blessing the Elements

Receiving the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn # 119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

A Unison Prayer for Christmas

**O God, who has made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech Thee, that, as we have known on earth the mysteries of that light, we may also come to the fullness of its joy in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.**

Special Music "O Holy Night" Reverend Button

Hymn # 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

**The words for this carol are printed on the back of the bulletin.  
Ushers will light candles on the aisles. Please pass the light along  
your row.**

Benediction Reverend Button

*(Why we sit for the Postlude: We have been blessed with wonderful organists over the years, so it has become a tradition at Laurinburg Presbyterian to remain seated for the Postlude and continue to worship and listen for God through music. If you need to leave before it ends, please exit reverently.)*

Postlude "Silent Night, Holy Night!" arr. by John Williams

\*Those who are able are requested to stand

*Christmas Eve Service  
Laurinburg Presbyterian Church  
December 24, 2023  
5:30pm*

*Silent Night, Holy 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.*

*Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly 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.*



*Rev. Robert (Bob) E. Button, Interim Pastor  
Pastor John Stanley, CRE  
Alex Bryant, Seminary Student  
Dr. José Rivera, Director of Music  
Lee Harris, Organist*