

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2009

THE CHURCH GATHERS

THE GREETING

Isaiah 9:6

The Rev. John R. Cook

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Worshippers are asked to sign the Friendship Register)

PRELUDE AND INTROIT

"For Us a Child Is Born"

Bach

For us a child is born, a son to us is given.

LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATH

Janet, Scott, Chloe, Wallis, Dane & Alec Hamilton (8:45)

Heather, Eric, Aidan & Kathleen Powers (11:00)

Leader: Let us rejoice in God our Savior, who has done great things for us.

Today we light the fourth Advent candle, the candle of joy.

People: We gather as a people of hope, peace, love and joy.

Leader: The light of these candles reminds us that once we were a people who
waited in darkness, but the light of Christ, which illumined the world long
ago in a manger in Bethlehem, holds the darkness back.

**People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has
not overcome it.**

Leader: Now we prepare for the coming of Christ with singing and celebration and
the spirit of rejoicing, because good news of a great joy has come to all
people.

**People: For unto us a child is born, a Savior who is Christ the Lord.
Let us rejoice and be glad!**

Leader: May this candle of joy give light to the world!

*HYMN No. 38

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

CAROL

CALL to CONFESSION

PRAYER of CONFESSION

**Great God, we behold the gift of the Child again, yet we are also mindful of
how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story of this day points
us to your glory, yet we struggle daily to join in the angels' song. We focus on
things that matter little and overlook the good news of great joy. Tell us again
that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that life
can be abundant in faith and hope and love, not because of who we are, but
because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

**He announced to his people
the coming of God's rule of justice and peace on earth.
We believe that the coming of Jesus
was itself the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his life, death, and resurrection
he initiates the relationship between God and the human race
that God always intended.** *A Declaration of Faith*

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and the LORD'S PRAYER

.....**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 OFFERING

Elder Lou Green

The Offertory

"My Heart Ever Faithful"

Bach

Serena Hill, soprano

*DOXOLOGY

"All Creation, Join in Praising"

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

TO GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN No. 23

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

Bach

Alleluia, O praised be God. All raise your voices, sing with thankful voices;
thou God today hast given us joy. Hold fast to him and praise his name eternal.

POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

Bach

**Those who are able, please stand*

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP begins with the Prelude and the lighting of the candles to signify the light of Christ among us. The Prelude offers us a time to prepare for worship with prayer and quiet meditation. Serving as acolyte today is Mary Redden Timmons.

TODAY'S USHERS ARE: (8:45) Cathy Hazelwood & Jeff Ruble – Head Ushers, Margaret Jordan, Bob Kramer & Brady Wilke. (11:00) John Kay & Mike White – Head Ushers, Kenneth Acker, Reggie Freeman, Paul Harrill, MariClare Martin, Lola Mauer, Dolly Patton, Bill Pitts & Allan Schurr. Elder on duty this month is John Kay.

AMBASSADORS TODAY ARE: Scott Barnes, Carol Bell, Wayne Bryan, Marita Bussard, Jim Gilchrist, Allen Gill, MariClare Martin, John Mason, Lola Mauer, Judy Medlin, Laura Murchison, Mimi Parrott, Paul Sanderson and Willie Wiles. The Presbyterian Home bus driver today is Gary Jewett.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

December 21 – 7:00 PM – The Longest Night Service (nursery provided)

December 24 – 5:00 PM – Family Service with Christmas Pageant

December 24 – 8:00 PM (Special Music begins at 7:45PM) &

11:00 PM Candlelight Communion

Agnes Norfleet preaching “And on Earth Peace”

(Nursery provided only at 8:00PM)

December 27 – 9:45 AM – No Sunday School –

Breakfast in Davis Hall - Bring breakfast foods to share!!!

One Worship Service at 11:00 AM

TODAY WE RECEIVE THE Christmas Joy Offering which is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

VISITORS, if you are interested in uniting with this church, please speak to one of the pastors.

SHANDON COLLEGE STUDENTS: Join us **today** for a Christmas Sunday School class just for you at 10:00 AM in the church library. Also contact John Cook (jcook@shandonpres.org) if you are interested in the Montreat Collegiate Conference (January 2 – 5, 2010). Check it out at <http://www.montreat.org/current/2010-college-conference>.

NO MIDDLE YOUTH group this evening. We'll resume youth group on January 10th. Have a great Christmas break!

SR. HIGH CHRISTMAS PARTY is at Hannah Quackenbush's house (3208 Monroe) from 7:00 PM -9:00 PM. Don't forget to bring a \$5 wrapped gift to exchange. If you need a ride, meet at church at 6:45 PM and we'll take a bus.

THE COMMUNITY SING-ALONG MESSIAH is tomorrow, Monday, December 21 at 7:00 PM at Washington Street UMC. Lillian Quackenbush will lead the community, chorus, soloists including Elizabeth Woodard, and orchestra in Handel's exquisite music. Music is available at the door.

IF YOU ARE behind on your 2009 pledge, please catch up by December 31. If you have not yet turned in your pledge for 2010 please do so as soon as possible.

PLEASE REMEMBER when giving gifts of stock to Shandon through a brokerage firm, to alert the Business Office to expect your gift. Contact your broker early enough for a year-end gift so that it will be received by Shandon before December 31.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET is open each Sunday until Christmas in Davis Hall after the 11:00 AM Worship Service. Gift catalogs that include a list of items available and how they will support the 10 organizations included this year are available throughout the church.

THANK YOU to all church members who gave their time and resources to the 2009 Palmetto Project Families Helping Families event. Once again, Shandon Presbyterian Church generously adopted 20 families and gave 128 separate gifts to help brighten Christmas for families in need.

THE COLOR IMAGES on today's bulletin cover are from a small portion of one of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary of Shandon Presbyterian. "The Nativity" window was installed in 1928 as a part of the building of this sanctuary. The photographs taken of these images are from Guy White with the assistance of Judy Hubbard and Ute Wachsmann-Linnan. The Arts at Shandon is sponsoring this project in the belief that art is essential to life and faith and helps us understand who we are.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, December 20 (Woods – Friendship Registers)

- 8:45 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:45 AM Sunday School (Church School Rooms)
- 10:00 AM College Christmas Class (Library)
- 11:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 PM Fellowship (Davis Hall)
- 2:00 PM SPC Youth Basketball (Activity Center)
- 4:00 PM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 PM Christmas Pageant Pizza Party (Davis Hall)
- 7:00 PM Sr. High Christmas Party (Off Campus)

MONDAY, December 21

- 6:00 PM SPC Youth Basketball (Activity Center)
- 7:00 PM The Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, December 22

- 8:45 AM Exercise Class (Activity Center)
- 6:00 PM SPC Youth Basketball (Activity Center)

WEDNESDAY, December 23

- 7:30 AM CDC closed
- 9:30 AM Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, December 24

- 7:30 AM CDC Closed
- 12:00 PM Church Offices Close at NOON
- 5:00 PM Family Service/Children's Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary)
- 8:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY, December 25 *Merry Christmas!*

- 7:30 AM CDC Closed
- 8:00 AM Church Offices Closed

SUNDAY, December 27

- 9:45 AM Intergenerational Breakfast (Activity Center)
- 11:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 28

- 7:30 AM CDC reopens
- 8:00 AM Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 29

- 9:00 AM SPIRE Assembly (224)
- 6:00 PM SPC Youth Basketball (Activity Center)

Shandon Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Lillian Quackenbush, Director

Bill McNair, Harpsichordist

Sopranos – Mary Anderson, Angela Blalock, Ellie Dagle, Elisabeth Hall, Barbara Hayes, Serena Hill, Kate Huggins, Anne McNair, Emi Ohta, Trish Sargent, Marty Sennema, Felicia Torres, Anne Waltz

Altos – Nikki Anderson, Lily Bradley, Stacey Brennan, Suzanne Carruthers, Betty Fitzgerald, Eilene Folger, Sara Freeman, Nell Haggard, Darcie Jones, Patty Kadow, Harriet McMaster, Sandra O'Neal, Connie Schulz, Ute Wachsmann-Linnan, Lori White, Elizabeth Woodard

Tenors – Cleve Edwards, Luke Fant, Tommy Fitzgerald, Henry Hall, Dave Quackenbush, Dave Sennema, Bret Swan-Kloos

Basses – John Anderson, Larry Arney, Byron Duell, Ross Hilliard, Donald Holland, Jim Masek, Scott Phinney, Bill Sargent, John Steedman, Willy Stuck, Fred Teuber

Orchestra

Flute	Robyn Leadbitter	Blair Francis
Oboe	Rebecca Nagel	Woodie Woodruff
Violin	Neil Casey	Andrea Krafft
Viola	Lindsey Tripp	
Cello	Kristian Ring	

Which Johann? The music for today's service BWV142 "For Us A Child Is Born" was originally attributed to Johann Sebastian Bach for good reason. Bach's first five years at the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig 1723-1728 were consumed with composing a cantata for each Sunday of the liturgical year! It was probably another Johann who actually wrote the music you will hear. Johann Kuhnau was cantor at St. Thomas prior to Bach and since the music was already in the music library; Bach was likely to have used it at some point as he was completing his own work for that particular Sunday. It has been regularly performed and published under Bach's name for two centuries, and only in the past half-century have musicologists challenged its authenticity as a Bach composition. Regardless of the identity of its composer, the work shines in its reverence to God, its celebration of Christ's birth, and its promise of our salvation.