

First Coming

by Madeline L'Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!



LPC is an Earth Care Congregation!

Earth Care Tip:

Put an extra blanket on the bed and wear sweaters (and even hats) so you can turn you thermostat down by 1 (or more) degrees during these cold days.

What small daily actions have you chosen to make a positive impact on our earth? Share them with us at office@lowcountrypres.org.

LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10 Simmonsville Road, Bluffton, SC 29910

Church Office: (843) 815-6570

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Web Page: www.lowcountrypres.org

Visit us on Facebook—www.facebook.com/lowcountrypresbyterian

STAFF

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Dr. Karen Ball, Organist—kball@olivet.edu

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:30am to 4:00pm

Friday: 8:30am - 12:00pm

The Session

Janit Maguire, Clerk
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Class of 2025

Jan Alpert
(843- 837-2177)
Kevin MacCarthy
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Pam Davis-Webb
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Lowcountry Presbyterian Church

*Surrounded by God's grace, we are a family of faith
joined together through Christ, offering meaning and hope
to all by the way we worship, serve and live.*

**10 Simmonsville Road
Bluffton, SC 29910**

**Christmas Eve Services
December 24, 2025
4:00pm and 7:00pm**

Christmas Eve Services
December 24, 2025 ~ 4pm and 7pm

Prelude *Chopin Etude in A Flat/Oh Come All Ye Faithful*
arr. Karen Ball
Angel Tidings arr. Sandra Eithun
Bell Ensemble (4:00pm)

Christmas Welcome Rev. David Johnson

***Call to worship** 4:00pm Dale Wilkes 7:00pm Jan Alpert

Leader: Tonight, the waiting is over.

People: The Light has come into the world!

Leader: In the stillness of this holy night, God's promise takes flesh.

People: We gather to rejoice, for love has drawn near.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who is Emmanuel — God with us.

People: We lift our hearts in praise, for Christ is born!

***Opening Hymn #134** *Joy to the World*

Opening Prayer

Time with Children**

(Children 6 and under may leave for Kids Space at 4pm only)

Offering

Introduction

Offertory *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* arr. Joel Raney

Reading Luke 2:1-5 4:00pm Mary Johnson
7:00pm Sue Dasson

Carol #121 *O little town of Bethlehem*

Reading Luke 2:6-7

Lesson Rev. Dr. Daniel d Beer

Bells/Choir: *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Sandra Eithun
Bell Ensemble (4:00pm)
Chancel Choir (7:00pm) Hymn#144

Reading Luke 2:8-14 4:00pm Pam Davis-Webb
7:00pm Margaret Johansen

***Carol #113** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Reading Luke 2:15-20 4:00pm Pam Davis-Webb
7:00pm Jim Felix

Lesson Rev. Johnson

Special Music *O Come All Ye Faithful*
Burton Rich, cello (4:00pm)
I Wonder As I Wander arr. Niles/Horton
Tom Smith, soloist (7:00pm)

Christmas Prayer

Rev. de Beer

Leader: Gracious God, tonight is a night for us to celebrate!

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come

Leader: Tonight is a night for reverence

People: How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given

Leader: Tonight is a night for awe

People: What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Leader: Tonight is a night for praise

People: Hallelujah, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth

Leader: Tonight is a night to tell the story

People: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere

Leader: Tonight is a night for prayer. Let us join in praying the prayer Jesus would teach his disciples...

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

Advent Candle (Christ Candle) 4:00pm Kevin & Wendy MacCarthy
7:00pm Terry & Fran Parker

Leader: On this holy night, we light the Christ candle. This candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, who has come to bring salvation.

People: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

The Christ candle is lit.

Leader: May the light of Christ guide us as we celebrate His birth.

People: We light this Christ candle, celebrating the coming of Jesus.

***Carol #136** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Service of Communion

Clergy of the Church

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: May God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements***

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Closing Carol #122** *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

*****Lighting of Candles**

***Christmas Blessing and Benediction**

Rev. Johnson

***Postlude** *Angels We Have Heard On High.* Traditional

***Those who are able, please stand.**

****Childcare** for 6 and under is provided for the 4:00pm service in the nursery. At 7:00pm that space is available for your use should your child get restless.

***** Communion by Intinction:** As you come forward, use the side aisles as directed by an usher. Please take a piece of bread and dip it in one of the chalices; the first chalice is wine, the second, grape juice. If you prefer, you may take a packaged communion set when you come forward. Please return to your seat using the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and a packaged set will be brought to you. Gluten free bread is available in the center of each tray and we also have gluten free packaged sets.

******Candle Lighting Information:** Before singing the final hymn you will be invited to stand. Pastors and elders will light candles on the ends of the pews and congregants will light those of their neighbors (please only tilt unlit candles). Once all the candles are lit, we will sing *Silent Night* in the sanctuary. Due to safety concerns we will not be taking the lit candles outside. The extinguished candles can be deposited in bins in the Narthex as you leave. Thank you.

If you reserved a memorial poinsettia, please remember to take it after the service.

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. The Christmas Eve Offering tonight will go to this non profit. The founder Eglantyne Jebb saw children dying of starvation and wracked with disease after the end of the First World War. So, in 1919, she launched the Save the Children Fund to raise much-needed funds to end children's suffering across war-torn Europe. Today, over 100 years later, they work in the United States and around the world to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. When crisis strikes and children are most vulnerable, Save the Children is always among the first to respond and the last to leave. They do whatever it takes for children - every day and in times of crisis - transforming their lives and the future we share. Thank you for your financial support of Save the Children.

Thank you to the Chancel Choir and the bell ensemble for the special music.

Members of the bell ensemble: Rosemary Bishop, Peggy Evans, Nancy Graham, Robyn Kiser, Nancy Osgood, and Claire Rich
Members of the choir: Gail Box, Annette de Beer, Peggy & Taylor Evans, Nancy Graham, April Medley, Dale & Jean Nordby, Tom Smith, Janet Van Name, Brenda Wildt and Jim Wright

Rev. Johnson will be on vacation following the Christmas Eve Services, returning on January 2nd.

Over the holidays if you have any pastoral emergency, please call Rev. de Beer, 309-221-4732.