

# FIRST (SCOTS) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*53 Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29401*

Organized 1731

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 9 P.M.



THE REV. DR. L. HOLTON SIEGLING, JR.  
SENIOR PASTOR

THE REV. DR. JAMES T. ROGERS  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

THE REV. DR. DANIEL W. MASSIE  
PASTOR EMERITUS

MRS. MARY B. ROBINSON  
PARISH ASSOCIATE

*Serving God in Charleston and the world*

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2023

## THE VISION OF GOD

**PRELUDE 8:30 P.M.**

“People Look East” Malcom Archer  
“The Truth Sent from Above” Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams  
*Katherine Clarkson, soprano*  
“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” Arranged by Allan J. Hommerding  
“What Child Is This” English Ballad, 16th century  
“Still, Still, Still” German Carol/Arranged by Philip Ledger  
“Jesu Christ the Apple Tree” Elizabeth Poston  
“Night of Silence” Daniel Kantor  
*Timmi Winston, mezzo-soprano*  
“What Sweeter Music” John Rutter

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

“Vom Himmel Hoch, I, II, III” Ernst Pepping

**WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

The Rev. Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr.

(Please sign and pass the Friendship Registry)

**†PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## THE LIGHT PRESENTED

**CHORAL INTROIT**

“All My Heart Today Rejoices” Johann Ebeling

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Massie

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**All: those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.**

One: Come, let us worship the Living God

**All: whose light brings hope to a weary world.**

**†PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Hymn No. 41

**PRAYER OF ADORATION**

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (A pause for silent confession follows.)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

Everlasting God, in an anxious world our hearts tremble as we consider the darkness around us. But on this night all joy is born, not that hearts may yield to gloom, but so that we may prepare Him room; not that we might fear the darkness, but that we see the glory of heaven around us. As you gave yourself in Jesus to redeem us from our sin, we pray for the grace to follow your way and live as your joy-filled people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“Away in a Manger” Hymn No. 25

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

† Those who are able, please stand.

+ Those arriving for worship are invited to take their seats at this time.

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Bob Arnett

First Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

(pew Bible, page 832)

**ANTHEM**

“Nativity Carol”

John Rutter

Second Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

(pew Bible, page 783)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED** “WHAT MAKES THE WISE MEN WISE?” The Rev. Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr.

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**†THE APOSTLES’ CREED** (unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**†HYMN OF REFLECTION**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hymn No. 44

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

The Rev. Dr. James T. Rogers

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

*Katherine Clarkson, soprano*

(We celebrate that some people choose to give electronically or by texting FIRSTSCOTS to 73256)

**†DOXOLOGY**

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (verse 3)

Hymn No. 23

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**THE WORD ENACTED**

The Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Prayer of Consecration

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

Words of Institution

The Communion of the People

Organ Voluntary

“Es Is Ein Ros Entsprungen”

Johannes Brahms

Communion Anthem

“O Magnum Mysterium”

Tomas Luis de Victoria

*(please see back of bulletin for translation)*

† Those who are able, please stand.

+ Those arriving for worship are invited to take their seats at this time.

## THE LIGHT REFLECTED

### †CANDLELIGHTING

John 1:1-5

(pew bible, page 862)

*The ministers will light their candles from the Christ candle and proceed to light the candles of those serving as ushers. The ushers will then carry the light into the congregation.*

### †HYMN OF COMMITMENT

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Hymn No. 60

### †CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### †BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Joy to the World!”

Hymn No. 40

### †POSTLUDE

“Noel Grand Jeu et Duo”

Louis Daquin

*Extinguished candles should be placed in the boxes on the portico as you exit the sanctuary.*

### “O Magnum Mysterium” Translation

*O great mystery and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger!  
O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb  
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!*

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

This offering is a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. It is one of the special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offered to members of our congregation and will be received during Christmas services. For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA). This year, the Christmas Joy Offering will provide assistance to current and retired church workers and their families and will help to develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Offering envelopes are available in the pews. All donations should be made payable to First (Scots) and designated for the Christmas Joy Offering.

**OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP EXTENDS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE SANCTUARY**  
in the form of video recording and livestreaming. Your presence with us today signifies consent to the possibility that your image may be included as part of our media broadcast.

## ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE THIS EVENING

**GREETERS:** Jane McNeill, John Robinson    **USHERS:** Jon Bolt, John Robinson

**DEACONS:** Greg McKenzie, Ann Anderson    **MEDIA:** Chris Rucker

**BEADLE:** John Robinson    **LAY READER:** Bob Arnett



The Reverend Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr., Senior Pastor  
The Reverend Dr. James T. Rogers, Associate Pastor  
Mrs. Mary Robinson, Parish Associate



Ricard Bordas, Director of Choral Music  
Katherine Clarkson, Kirk Choristers Director  
Scarlett Crawford, Church Administrator  
Jennifer Cromwell, Kindergarten Director  
Linda Deeter, Administrative Assistant to the Pastors  
Nancy Hunsicker, Food Services Director

Lee Kohlenberg, Interim Organist  
Karen Kuhn, Administrative Assistant  
Whitney Nilsson, Communications Coordinator  
Shelby Olinger, Church Accountant  
Martha Ann Siegling, Christian Education Assistant  
Garry Stone, Facility Maintenance Coordinator

Christina Wilhoit, Handbell Choir Director