

**Christmas Eve Worship – 5:00 p.m.**  
**December 24, 2012**  
**First Cumberland Presbyterian Church**  
**Knoxville, Tennessee**

**CHRISTMAS EVE THROUGH THE CENTURIES**

Preparation for Worship

“When the midnight, dark and still,  
Wrapped in silence vale and hill:  
God the Son, through Virgin’s birth,  
Following the Father’s will.  
Started life as Men on earth.”

(From a Latin hymn of the 4<sup>th</sup> century expressing the common belief  
of that day that Christ was born at midnight.)

Organ Prelude: “Adeste Fidelis” Arr. Hal Hopson  
The lighting of the altar candles  
Chimes sounding the hour of worship

**The First Christmas Eve**

\*The Call to Worship Luke 2:9-14

Pastor: “And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory  
of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore  
afraid. And the angel said unto them

People: “Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,  
which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in  
the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Pastor: “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the  
heavenly host praising God, and saying,

People: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will  
toward men.”

+Prayer of Invocation  
+The Lord’s Prayer

(The following Scripture passage is taken from the Mass conducted by  
Pope Sixtus III in the church of St. Mary Major in Rome about the mid-  
dle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Tradition states that this was probably the first  
Christian worship service held on Christmas Eve.)

+Please stand

+The Unison Scripture Matthew 1:18-21 (Page 1)  
+The Carol “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” #277

**The Lighting of the Advent Candle**

(The five candles are lit by the James O’Neal family:

James, Peggy, Sydney, Emma, Elijah)

The tall white candle is the Christ candle. As it is lit, recall that Isaiah  
said, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” This  
light is Jesus.

Meditation – Prayer

+The Carol “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” #251

**Christmas Eve in the Ninth Century**

Choir Anthem “How Should A King Come?”

+The Unison Scripture Matthew 1:22-23 (page 1)

+The Carol “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #245

(This carol is based upon a chant used during the season of  
Advent in the Christian Church in the 9<sup>th</sup> century)

**Christmas Eve Following the Reformation**

(The first religious songs used by the early Protestants were Psalms set  
to music. The following carol, “Joy to the World”, written by Isaac  
Watts in 1719, is a paraphrase of Psalm 98)

(Pastor will read the Scripture; the congregation will sing the  
carol) “Joy to the World” #270  
(A Litany of Word and Song)

Pastor: “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; Break forth  
and sing for Joy, yea, sing praises.”

People: “Joy to the World” – vs. 1

Pastor: “Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they  
that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands;  
Let the hills sing for joy together – before the Lord”

People: “Joy to the World” – vs. 2

Pastor: “For He comes to judge the earth; He will judge the world with  
Righteousness, and the people with equity.”

People: “Joy to the World” – verses 3 and 4.

+Please stand

### **The First Christmas Eve service in America**

(Held in a Moravian settlement in Pennsylvania in 1741, this hymn was used ) –

“Not Jerusalem – lowly Bethlehem  
‘Twas that gave us Christ to save us.  
Not Jerusalem – favored Bethlehem  
Honored in that name.  
Thence came Jesus to release us –  
Favored Bethlehem.”

The Christmas Prayer

### **Christmas Eve a Century Ago**

(The following carol was written by Phillips Brooks in 1868 for the Sunday School Christmas program in his church. The words came to him from inspiration he received from a visit to the birthplace of Christ on Christmas Eve three years previously).

Choir Anthem

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Offertory Sentence– “Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)

Offertory

*“Once In Royal David’s City”*

Piano/Organ

+The Doxology

+Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

### **Christmas Eve Tonight**

The Birth scripture - Luke 2:1-7

The Christmas Meditation – “How Big is the Baby?”

Ladies Ensemble

*“O Holy Night”*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

+The lighting of the individual candles

+The Carol

*“Silent Night”*

#253

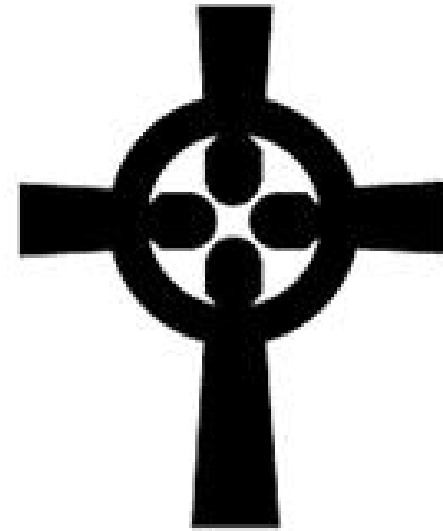
James Paschke & Scott Roberts, Guitars

+The Prayer of Benediction

+The Organ Postlude: “The Birthday of the King”

Neidlinger

+Please stand



# **First Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

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