



Sunday, December 24, 2023
7:00 pm

PRELUDE

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
-arr. Hayes/Wagner

WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE Pastor Perry Hines

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN
Oh Holy Night v1,2,3

Verse 1
O holy night! the stars
are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear
Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin
and error pining,
Till He appeared and
the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope-
the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks
a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees!
O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night
when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Verse 2
Led by the light of faith
serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts
by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of

a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need—
to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Verse 3

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break,
for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all
oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful
chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord!
O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
The Brooks Family

UNISON:
**We relight the Advent candles of hope,
peace, joy and love**

Prayer Pastor Perry Hines

The Christmas Story Jim Larson
Luke 2:1-14 NKJV

2 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her



firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Special Music Chancel Choir
 "Christ is Born This Holy Night" from The
 Glory of Christmas Cantata—by Lloyd Larson

Christmas Message Pastor Perry Hines

Sermon Title "The Gift of Generosity"

Scripture Lesson

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I John 4:9-10

⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Candlelight Communion Celebration
 (We will partake of the elements together)

Lighting of the Christ Candle
 Pastor Perry Hines

Leader: Tonight we light the Christ Candle that reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Congregation Hymn
 Angels We Have Heard on High—UMH 238

Verse 1
 Angels we have heard on high
 sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply
 echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Verse 3
 Come to Bethlehem and see
 Christ whose birth the angels sing;
 come, adore on bended knee,
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
 (Refrain)

Responsive Reading
 Leader: In the beginning and in the mist
 of darkness God spoke.

Congregation: Let there be light.

Leader: In the beginning was the Word.
 And the Word came and dwelt among us.
 And the Word was the light of all people.

Congregation: Let there be light.

Leader: We light our candles, knowing that
 the One who is the source and promise of
 all light is the One whose birth we
 celebrate.

Congregation: Let there be light.

Leader: We are here to seek a little light by
 which we can see, by which we can live,
 by which we can love.

Congregation: Let there be light.

Leader: We need to know that we are part
 of something greater than the flicker of our
 own little candles. We long to be assured
 that the light of Christ is with us.

Congregation: Let there be light.



Leader: So we light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shine through the babe born in Bethlehem who become the Redeemer of us all.

Congregation: Let there be light.

Leader: May we be emboldened as to share the love of God with a world longing for light and hope, purpose, and love. May our actions and generosity shine in a world under the shadow of despair.

Congregation: Let there be light.

Leader: We join the chorus of those whose carols have echoed through the years— “O come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel.”

Congregation: Let there be light.

(Congregational candles will be lit from the Christ Candle, then each one will in turn pass the light on to their neighbor.)

Closing Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night
(*Sung after all candles are lit)

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

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.

Verse 3

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with
dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord,
at Thy birth. Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

Verse 4

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!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Sing We Now of Christmas"-French Carol/ arr. Krug

**Please place candles in the tubs in the narthex*



Pastor Perry and Carolyn, all our staff, Candy, Kayla, Justin, Nicole, Teresa, Dennis and Doug thank you all for all your prayers, gifts and cards during this Christmas season. We wish you and yours a season of wonder, and love. May you have a very Merry Christmas!

We wanted to make sure you know how much we appreciate you joining for worship here at Central Methodist Church of Kings Mountain! If you were gifted a poinsettia, you may take it home with you after service. We would like to invite you to join us on Sunday Mornings at 10:00am for worship.



Save the Date for the 2024 Methodist Women's Parade of Tables on Saturday, January 20! If you would like to sponsor a table or purchase tickets, please see Marie Brinkley or Elaine Dixon. Proceeds for this event will benefit local charities. For more information, please contact the church office at 704-739-2471 or central@cumkm.org.

Methodist Women of Kings Mountain Host: Mercy House Global "Share The Light" event on Saturday, February 10, 2024, in the CAC. Mercy House Global exists to rescue girls and empower families so that we can redeem future generations in Jesus' name. We work with women around the world through partnerships and sustainable Fair Trade product development. Every purchase made in the Fair Trade online marketplace provides dignified work while also sustaining our two maternity homes in Kenya. This will be an immersive Mercy House Global experience. With a powerful message from our founder, a Fair Trade Pop Up Shop, and a coinciding candle class and volunteer project, this event gives guests a unique glimpse into the work of MHG and how they can be a part of how God is empowering vulnerable families around the world! Tickets are \$25 each. More details will come soon; you do not want to miss this event! Contact Audrey Brooks 404-274-1758 for more information.

Year End Donations All 2023 Contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2023 or received in the offering by December 31, 2023.

Church Office Holiday Schedule The church office will be closed on 12/25/23, 12/26/23, 1/1/24 and 1/15/24.

2024 Ushers and Greeters Needed We are looking for ushers and greeters for Sunday Morning Worship at Central. This is a ministry that can help our church grow, and we need your help. We are currently working on the usher and greeter calendar for the upcoming year, and we are in need of 4 volunteers each month. There are many spots available, so please consider volunteering. You can contact Joe Patterson or the church office at 704-739-2471 or central@cmkm.org to let us know you are willing to serve. Thank you for your interest!

Missions Day Senior's Winter Party at Summit Place Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 2:00-3:30 pm—All church members are invited to attend and fellowship with the seniors. We will be having snacks, crafts, games, and prayer with the seniors at Summit Place. If you are planning on attending from the church we ask that you register so that we will know how much material/snacks to buy. Please call the church office 704-739-2471 to register.

Sunday Mornings: KIDS Central & Nursery News Our **Nursery** is available starting at 9:00 am for ages 0-4 years old. We are in need of volunteers in the nursery to help support this ministry. Please see or contact Kayla Potter Fuller at kayla@cmkm.org or 704-739-2471. **KID Central** is our church's church for K-5th and **check in is now at 9:00am** on Sundays. If you have any questions, please contact our Youth and Children's Ministries Director, Kayla Potter Fuller at kayla@cmkm.org.

Central Youth meets on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm. If you have any questions or would like to join/volunteer for youth events, please contact Kayla Potter Fuller at kayla@cmkm.org or 704-739-2471.

You can reach **Pastor Perry Hines** at 828-768-5996.