



BENJAMIN BRITTEN

First Presbyterian Church
Huntsville, Alabama
Sunday December 17, 2017
Women of the
FPC Chancel Choir
Katherine Newman-Harp

St.
Ceremony
of Carols

Gathering in God's Name

With the chiming of the bell, we quietly and prayerfully prepare our hearts and minds of worship God

Chiming of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Carol Tate

Procession

Hodie

Benjamin Britten

Katie Buckner, soprano

*Hodie Christus natus est;
Hodie Salvator apparuit;
Hodie in terra canunt angeli;
Laetantur archangeli;
Hodie exsultant justi dicentes;
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia!*

*Today Christ is born;
Today the Saviour has appeared;
Today the angels sing,
The archangels rejoice;
Today the righteous rejoice, saying,
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

Choral Introit

Wolcum Yole!

Benjamin Britten

*Wolcum, Wolcum,
Wolcum be thou heavenè king,
Wolcum, born in one morning,
Wolcum, for whom we sall sing!*

*Wolcum be ye, Stevene and Jon,
Wolcum, Innocentes every one,
Wolcum, Thomas marter one,
Wolcum be ye, good New Yere,
Wolcum Twelfth Day both in fere,
Wolcum seintes lefe and dere.*

*Candelmesse, Queene of Bliss,
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.
Wolcum be ye that are here,
Wolcum alle and make good cheer.
Wolcum alle another yere.*

*Welcome, welcome,
Welcome to You, our heavenly King.
Welcome, you who were born one morning,
Welcome, for You shall we sing!*

*Welcome, to you, Steven and John,
Welcome, all innocent children,
Welcome, Thomas, the martyred one,
Welcome, good new year,
Welcome Twelfth Day, both in fear...
Welcome Saints left and dear.*

*Candle Mass, Queen of bliss,
Welcome both to more and less.
Welcome you that are here,
Welcome all and make good cheer.
Welcome all another year.*

*Call to Worship

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord;

People: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things.

People: Holy is God's name.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(8:30) Roy McCorkle; (10:30) Anne Brigance

Opening Prayer

Holy God,

help us to hear your voice, awaken us to your presence,

alert us to your love, affirm in us your peace,

open to us your way and teach us what to cry out.

Reveal to us your joy and enfold us in your light.

Make our hearts ready to know your coming,

in the name of Christ Jesus, whose Kingdom will have no end. Amen.

Musical Offering

There is no Rose

Benjamin Britten

*There is no rose of such vertu
As is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in litel space
Res miranda, Res miranda.*

*By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Pares forma, pares forma.*

*The aungels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus, Gaudeamus.*

*Leave we all this werdly mirth,
And follow we this joyful mirth.
Transeamus, Transeamus. Anon.*

*There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bore Jesus.
Alleluia.*

*For inside the Rose (called Mary)
Were heaven and earth in a single, little space.
Miraculous thing.*

*By that rose, we now may see,
There be one God in persons three,
Created in parent's image*

*The angels sang to the shepherds,
Glory to God in the highest!
We rejoice.*

*Leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth.
We cross over to Christ's world.*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy and strong One

People: Forgive our weakness.

Leader: Holy and wise One

People: Forgive our foolishness.

Leader: Holy and loving One

People: Forgive our hardness of heart.

Leader: Holy and generous One

People: Forgive our selfishness.

Leader: Holy and faithful One,

People: Forgive our indecisiveness.

Leader: Forgive us, Holy One,

People: Forgive us, we pray.

(silence for reflection)

Kyrie Eleison

***Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming
we announce in this season, is our righteousness.

In our baptism, we die with Christ to sin
and are raised with him to a life of righteousness.

Believe the good news!

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Hymn 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)
Gloria in excelsis Deo*

GLORIA

Musical Offering

That Yongë Child Sherry Smith, alto

Benjamin Britten

*That yongë child when it gan weep
With song she lulled him asleep
That was so sweet a melody
It passéd alle minstrelly.*

*The nightingale sang also:
Her song is hoarse and nought therto:
Whoso attendeth to her song
And leaveth the first then doth he wrong.*

*When that young child began to weep
With song, she lulled him to sleep
It was such a sweet melody,
It was so very merry.*

*The nightingale sang also,
But her song was hoarse, it was not the same:
Whoever listens to the nightingale's song
Instead of Mary's, does wrong.*

Balulalow Kira Plumly, soprano

*O my deare hert, young Je su sweit
Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,
And I sall rock thee to my hert,
And never mair from thee depart.*

*But I sall praise thee evermoir
With sanges sweit unto thy gloir;
The knees of my hert sall I bow
And sing that richt Balulalow!*

*O love of my heart, young Jesus sweet,
Prepare your place in my heart,
And I shall rock thee with great love,
And I shall never leave your side.*

*I shall praise you forever,
With sweet songs of your glory
The knees of my heart shall I bow
And sing the right Lullaby!*

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading - Luke 1:26-38

pew Bible, NT, pg. 56
pew Bible (large print), NT, pg. 69
Readers: (8:30) Roy McCorkle; (10:30) Kyle Scholl

Anthem

As dew in Aprille

Benjamin Britten

*I sing of a maiden that is makelès:
King of all kings to her son she ches.*

*He came al so stille there his moder was,
As dew in Aprille that falleth on the grass.*

*He came also stille to his moder's bour,
As dew in Aprille that falleth on the flour.*

*He came also stille there his moder lay
As dew in Aprille that falleth on the spray.*

*Moder and mayden was never none but she:
Well such a lady Goddes moder be.*

*I sing of a maiden that is mateless,
Her son was the King of all Kings.*

*From his mother he came to us quietly
As dew in April that falls on the grass.*

*His mother's labor was painless and quiet,
As dew in April that falls on the flower branches.*

*His mother came also still and lay down
As dew in April that falls on the spray.*

*Never has there been such a mother and maiden
How fitting it is that this be God's mother.*

Time for Young Disciples

At this time all children will be invited to come to the chancel steps. Children ages **KINDERGARTEN AND YOUNGER** are dismissed to the nursery. **FIRST GRADE AND UP** should remain in the sanctuary with parents.

Second Reading - Luke 1:47-55

pew Bible, NT, pg. 57
pew Bible (large print), NT, pg. 69

Meditation

“Mothers of God”

Rev. Carol Tate

Anthem

This Little Babe

Benjamin Britten

*This little Babe so few days old
Is come to rifle Satan's fold.
All hell doth at his presence quake,
Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmèd wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.*

*With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows looks of weeping eyes;
His martial ensigns Cold and Need,
And feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.*

*His camp is pitchèd in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes,
Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trumps alarum sound.*

*My soul, with Christ join thou in fight,
Stick to the tents that he hath pight;
Within his crib is surest ward,
This little Babe will be thy guard;
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
Then flit not from this heavenly boy.*

*This little Babe so few days old
Has come to rifle Satan's fold
All hell quakes at his presence,
Though he himself shivers.
For in this weak, unarmed guise
He will surprise the very gates of Hell!*

*With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His shots are his cries,
His arrows, the looks of his weeping eyes.
His martial ensigns are cold and need,
And his feeble flesh, his warrior's steed.*

*His camp is pitched in a stall,
His bulwark is a broken wall;
The crib his trench, hay stalks are his stakes,
Of shepherds, he enlists the troops.
And sure of wounding the foe,
The angels sound the trumpets alarm.*

*My soul joins Christ in the fight,
Stay by the tents that he has pitched;
Within his crib is sure protection
The little babe will be your guard;
If Christ can foil your foes with joy,
Stay near the heavenly boy.*

*Affirmation of Faith

from *A Declaration of Faith*

**We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power
as was no other child.
In the person and work of Jesus,
God himself and a human life
are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.
The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.**

Musical Offering

Spring Carol
Elizabeth Wright, Sherry Smith, Duet

Benjamin Britten

*Pleasure it is to hear iwis, the birdès sing,
The deer in the dale, the sheep in the vale,*

*The corn springing.
God's purvayance for sustenance,
It is for man, it is for man.
Then we always to give him praise,
and thank him than.*

*It is always a pleasure to hear the birds sing,
to see the deer in the dale, the sheep in the vale,
The corn springing
From the earth.
God supplies substance
For us all.
Then we should always give him praise
And give him thanks.*

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. James Roberts

**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.**

Respond to God's Word with Thanksgiving

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Interlude
Katherine Newman, Harp

Benjamin Britten

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OLD ONE HUNDREDTH

***Offertory Prayer**

***Benediction**

Rev. Carol Tate

Sending

Choral Response

Deo Gracias

Benjamin Britten

*Deo Gracias! Deo Gracias!
Adam lay ibounden, bound in a bond,
For thousand winter thought he not too long.*

*And all was for an appil,
An appil that he tok,
As clerkès finden written in their book.*

*Ne had the appil takè been,
The appil takè been,
Ne haddè never our lady
A ben hevenè queen.*

*Blessed be the time
That appil takè was.
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo Gracias! Deo Gracias!*

*Give thanks to God!
Adam was bound in sin for four thousand years,
Although he thought not too long.*

*It was all for an apple
That he took,
As clerics find written in their books.*

*Had the apple never
Been taken,
Then our lady would have
Never been a heavenly queen.*

*Blessed be the time
The Apple was taken.
Therefore we must sing
Thanks be to God*

Postlude

Heaven's All Glorious King Is Born
Dr. Frank Contreras, organ

Paul Kickstat

A Ceremony of Carols (op. 28) was written by Benjamin Britten in March of 1942 while at sea aboard the M.S. Axel Johnson. His original work was written for treble choir and harp. The majority of the text is taken from *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*, and is in old English. Because of this, a "translation" is provided as well as the following notes:

- I. Hodie** - Taken from the *Vespers of the Nativity*, this unison plain chant antiphon is used as a procession and recession.
- II. Wolcum Yole** - This movement is a miniature of the liturgical calendar of the Christmas season. The heavenly child is welcomed as important feast days of the season are referenced.
- III. There is no Rose** - The message here is that Mary was unparalleled. For the first time, heaven and earth were in the same space within her womb. Because of her, we learn the mystery of the Trinity.
- IV. That yongë child** - When the baby Jesus began to cry, Mary sang a lullaby. The nightingale sang also, but Mary's song was superior.
- IV. Balulalow** - Showing great humility, Mary sings a good and proper Lullaby to the young Jesus.
- V. As dew in Aprille** - By using many metaphors, we here are reminded of a traditional tale that Mary's labor was painless. The thought is punctuated at the end by saying that this gift to Mary was only fitting for such a blessed lady.
- VI. This little Babe** - Traditional practice is to capitalize any word that refers to God, including possessives such as "His." It is interesting that in this movement this is not followed, but rather, that any word that refers to the Baby in any way is capitalized. A list of metaphors depicts Christ's battle with Satan. The metaphors oddly juxtapose infant images with weapons and battles.
- VII. Interlude** - This harp solo is among the classic literature for the instrument. Written in the key of Cb (eight flats), it uses the key in which the harp sounds most resonant.
- VIII. In freezing winter night** - (Not included in this service)
- IX. Spring Carol** - A duet to thank God after winter. One could interpret that Spring (the birth of Christ) comes after Winter (four thousand years of sin since Adam.)
- X. Deo Gracias** - The message is "blessed was the time that Adam sinned, because now we have the joy of the Savior." Humanity was bound by sin for Four Thousand winters (years) until Christ was born.
- XI. Recession** - This movement is identical to the first, and rounds out the form of the composition. (Not included in this service)

First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Carol Tate, Interim Pastor
Rev. James Roberts, Interim Associate pastor
Dr. Patricia Ramirez Hacker, Director of Music
Dr. Frank Contreras, Organist
Katherine Newman, Harp

Women Chancel Choir

Guests*

Soprano I

Alicia Beam
Mary Darsey
Alice Gardner
Susan Livingston
Barbara Martin
Peggy McClure
Kira Plumly
Elizabeth Wright

Soprano II

Miriam Bolton
Karen Brown
Katie Buckner
Chris Anne Causey
Betty Loeb
Linda McAllister
Serena Neely
Stacy Owens

Altos

Joyce Bond
Mary Lou Danner
Eliza Frances
Tish Hammer
Peggy Kutz*
Jan McKemie
May Myer
Elsie Peterson*
Langley Polk
Sue Shaver
Sherry Smith
Beverly Wills

We welcome Katherine Newman, principal harpist of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. She teaches harp at UAH and Oakwood University. She has performed in major regional orchestras and presented seminars around the nation.

WELCOME VISITORS!

First Presbyterian is a Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a Stephen Ministry Congregation

We welcome you as a participant in worship today. We pray that you will find this service meaningful.

Please remember to turn off all cell phones and pagers. **Also, please DO NOT take flash photographs during the services.**

Please sign in: The red Friendship Folders will be passed during the offering.

Looking for a Church home? Please speak with an usher after the 8:30 service or the "Ask Me" person standing at the rear of the church after the 10:30 service, who this week is Peggy Galloway. Ms. Galloway is available to answer questions about First Presbyterian Church, our programs, or finding locations within our building.

Ushers serving this morning: 8:30 a.m.: Bruce Williams; **10:30 a.m.:** Mary Adams, Sue Garrison, Andi Gaskins, June Guynes, and Melissa Rowe.

The flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Alan Gould Smith by Tricia, Lori, and David Smith.

PYC – 12/17 – CHANGE IN PLANS: Meeting at 11:30 after the morning worship to go to Five Guys for lunch then CAROLING. Afterwards, we would love if you can stay to watch the Children's Pageant, too!

First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville will be having a 24-hour Prayer Vigil for the Pastor Nominating Committee beginning Friday, December 29 at 8:00 a.m. until Saturday, December 30 at 8:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please signup for a time on the bulletin board.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: *Lessons and Carols* – December 24, 2017 – 3:00 and 5:00 pm – Sanctuary
ONE SERVICE SUNDAYS – December 24, 2017 and December 31, 2011 – 10:30 am – Sanctuary**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Members: Anne Boles, Charlie Bonner, Paula Brown, Emily Butler, Frances Byrd, Marlyn Harris, David Hatch, J. R. Howard, Kara Howard, Billie Jones, Cay Lambert, Sage Lyons III, Sanders Pair, Amy Ricks, John Shaver, Jr., and Dolly Shuey.

Friends & Relatives: Alice Contreras Anaya - Sister of Frank Contreras; Joany Bass - Sister of Nancy Lundy; Kolebi Baxter - Friend of Roger and Irmie Hamner; Mary Nell Beam - Daughter of Gene and Alicia Beam; Colleen Bolton and Holly Bolton - Daughters-in-Law of Bill and Miriam Bolton; Kim & Jeanne Chamberlin - Friends of Frank Contreras; Leslie Crowson - Friend of Everett Mosley; Kimberly Daniels - Friend of Carol Cotney; Claudia Fahrner - Friend of FPC; Stella Fair - Sister of David Galloway; Calhecia Francis - Sister of Eliza Francis; **Jimmy Ford – Son of Jean Forbes**; Susan Gillespie - Friend of FPC; Donna Hester - Sister-in-law of Anne Peters; Tina and James Hester - Parents of Anne Peters; Frances Kyser - Friend of Patricia Hacker; Lori Lee - Friend of Beverly Wills; Beverlee Leo - Mother of Lori Smith; Markes Little - Brother of Peggy Galloway; Kevin McCarley - Brother of Roy McCorkle; Beth Lee McCormick - Friend of the Fowler Family; Glenn Myers - Friend of Beverly Wills; Diana Rose - Mother of Serena Neely; Scott Sedlitz - Stepson of Annwhite Fuller.

Members and Relatives in Specialty Care: Elissa Green (Brookdale Hampton Cove); Jeanette Hollis (Harbor Chase); Pat Ivy (Redstone Village); Darwin Perkins (Brookdale Place); Ray Rose (Diversicare of Big Springs); Virginia Rowe (Whitesburg Gardens); Marge Sharp (Birmingham).