



*“Love first. Love always,
and we’ll figure out the rest of it as we go along.”ⁱ*



*Third Sunday of Advent
December 14th, 2025
11:00 a.m.*

*North Chevy Chase Christian Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation
Connecting Faith with Community.*

The People of God Gather

*If you're new to North Chevy Chase Christian Church, please consider filling out the Feedback Card you will find in the Pew pocket. We'll follow up with a brief phone call or email to say thank you for worshipping with us and to answer any question you may have.
We are glad you're here with us today!*

PRELUDE

Nadia Pessoa, Harp

WELCOME

Rev. Stephen Tickner

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Procession”

“Wolcum Yole!”

from *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten

Congregation standing in body or spirit

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer¹

Bill Wydro
Worship Leader

One: Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

ALL: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

¹ Call to Worship provided by Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Opening Prayer written by John Birch on faithandworship.com.

One: We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

ALL: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

One: We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

ALL: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

One: Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

ALL: Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

One: Now with our hearts open to God, let us pray...

OPENING HYMN “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”
CH 138

Verses 1&3

138 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2. In deep - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 3. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1983

REJOICE, REJOICE
98.98.87.89

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♩=50-54

D G Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 Then shall the si - lent join in song, the tired shall leap in
 love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D G C B Em/D

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - 'ry day we share, and

Am7 D7 G Am7 1. 2. G C G C G

lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES²

Anne-Marie Crawford

Bill Wydro

Anne-Marie: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

All: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

Anne-Marie: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

Bill: Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news.

Anne Marie lights pink candle.

Bill: May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

² Candlelighting liturgy written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Anne Marie: Let us sing the third verse of “One Candle is Lit” found on page 128.

CANDLE-LIGHTING HYMN "One Candle is Lit" CH 128
Verse 3

*Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.*

Congregation seated

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Stephen Tickner

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

Proclaim

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³ Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;

your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution

he will come to save you.”

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.
⁸ And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.
⁹ No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

THE WORD IN MUSIC “There is no Rose”

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

THE WORD IN MUSIC

“The yöngë child”

Jenn Symonds, soloist

“Balulalow”

Elizabeth Hutcheson, soloist

MESSAGE

"I Am Mary: The Magnificat"

Rev. Stephen Tickner

THE WORD IN MUSIC

"As dew in Aprille"

"This little Babe"

We Give and Receive

Communion is the central act of community within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in remembrance of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The invitation to the Table is extended to all who wish to follow Jesus and to share in the community of God's people. Everyone is invited to eat from this Table.

THE INVITATION TO GIVE AND RECEIVE

Rev. Stephen Tickner

PRAYER BY THE ELDER

Charlene Smith

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**COMING FORWARD TO GIVE, AND
TO RECEIVE THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

We come forward to bring our physical bodies and our financial gifts to God. You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to place your tithes & offerings in the trays available; and to receive the elements of bread and cup, taking them and returning to your seats down the side aisle, to consume the elements in silent reflection.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

“Interlude”

Harp solo

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE WORD IN MUSIC

“In Freezing Winter Night ”

Mary and Dwight Brock, soloists

“Spring Carol”

Mary Brock and Jenn Symonds, soloists

...And Go Forth to Serve

SHARING OF JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregation standing

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Deo Gracias”

“Recessional”

BENEDICTION

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*Please join us for coffee hour in Harlow Hall  
following the conclusion of the Postlude*

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SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Stephen Tickner, Minister
Glenn Pearson, Pianist/Organist
Bill Wydro Worship Leader
Charlene Smith, Elder at the Table
Anne Marie Crawford, Reader
Bill Wydro, Reader
A/V Team - Yvonne McGee, Lydia Oladapo,
Devi Rambarran

Musicians

Christine Schadeberg Wydro, Director
Nadia Pessoa, Harpist

Soprano

Mary Brock
*Elizabeth Hutcheson
Andrea Sherman
Charlene Smith
Jenn Symonds

Alto

Sally Coberly
*Jill Koshiol
Lydia Oladapo
Cheryl Parsons
Cheryl Tatham

Tenor

Roland Lippoldt
*David Mayersky
Richard Sherman

Bass

Dwight Brock
Robert Solomon

*= guest singer

A Ceremony of Carols, by Benjamin Britten

1. Procession

Hodie Christus natus est:
hodie Salvator apparuit:
hodie in terra canunt angeli:
laetantur archangeli:
hodie exsultant iusti 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!*

2. Wolcum Yole!

Wolcum be thou hevenè (*heavenly*) king,
Wolcum Yole! born in one morning,
Wolcum for whom we sall (*shall*) sing!
Wolcum be ye, Stevene and Jon,
Wolcum, Innocentes every one, Thomas marter (*martyr*) one,
Wolcum be ye, good Newe Yere, (*New Year*)
Wolcum, Twelfth Day both in fere, (*fear*)
Wolcum, seintes lefe and dere, (*saints left and dear*)
Candelmesse, Quene of bliss, (*Candle Mass, Queen of bliss*)
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.
Wolcum be ye that are here,
Wolcum alle and make good cheer, another yere! (*year*)

Welcome, Yule!

3. There is no Rose

There is no rose of such vertu (*virtue*) as is the rose that bare (*bore*) Jesu. ***Alleluia.***
For in this rose containèd was heaven and earth in litel space. ***Res miranda.*** (*Miraculous thing*)
By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three. ***Pares forma.*** (*In God's image*)
The aungels (*angels*) sungen the shepherds to: *Gloria in excelsis Deo.* ***Gaudeamus.*** (*We rejoice*)
Leave we all this werldly (*worldly*) mirth and follow we this joyful birth. ***Transeamus.*** (*We are transfigured*)

4a. That yongë childe when it gan weep
with song she lulled him asleep:
That was so sweet a melody
it passèd alle minstrelsy.
The nightingalë sang also:
Her song is hoarse . . . and nought thereto:
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 passed all minstrels' art.
The nightingale sang also,
Her song was hoarse, it was not the same:
Whoever listens to the nightingale's song
instead of Mary's...does wrong.*

4b. Balulalow (*J, J & R Wedderburn*)

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweet,
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.

Lullaby

*O my dear heart, young Jesus sweet,
Prepare thy cradle in my spirit,
And I shall rock thee to my heart,
And nevermore from thee depart,
But I shall praise thee evermore
With sweet songs unto thy glory;
The knees of my heart shall I bow,
And sing that rightful Lullaby.*

5. As dew in Aprile

As dew in April

I sing of a maiden that is *makèles*:
 King of all kings to her son she *ches*
 He came also 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 may such a lady Goddes moder be.

*I sing of a maiden that is mate-less
 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.
 As his mother lay there, he came quietly,
 As dew that falls on the flower branches.
 Never was such a mother and maiden;
 How fitting it is that this be God's mother.*

6. This little Babe (*Robert Southwell*)

This little Babe so few days old, is come to rifle (*ransack*) Satan's fold;
 All hell doth at his presence quake, though he himself for cold do shake;
 For in this weak unarmed 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 pitched 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 (*pitched*).
 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.

8. In Freezing Winter Night (*Robert Southwell*)

Behold, a silly tender babe, in freezing winter night,
 In homely manger trembling lies. Alas, a piteous sight!
 The inns are full; no man will yield this little pilgrim bed.
 But forced he is with silly beasts in crib to shroud his head.
 This stable is a Prince's court, this crib his chair of State;
 The beasts are parcel of his pomp, the wooden dish his plate.
 The persons in that poor attire his royal liveries wear;
 The Prince himself is come from heaven; this pomp is prized there.
 With joy approach, O Christian wight (*human being*), do homage to thy King,
 And highly praise his humble pomp, which he from Heaven doth bring.

9. Spring Carol (*William Cornish*)

Pleasure it is to hear iwis (*certainly*), the Birdes sing,
 The deer in the dale, the sheep in the vale, the corn springing.
 God's purveyance for sustenance, it is for man.
 Then we always to give him praise, and thank him than.

10. Deo Gracias (*Thanks be to God!*)

Adam lay ibounden in a bond; four thousand winter thought he not too long.
 And all was for an appil, an appil that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book.
 Ne (*never*) had the appil také ben, Ne haddé never our lady a ben hevené Queen.
 Blessed be the time that appil také was. Therefore we moun (*must*) sing: Deo gracias!

11. Recession (*text is identical to Procession*)

HEARING ASSISTANCE HEADPHONES are available in the Narthex.

Please set all pagers and cell phones to vibrate at this time.

CH = Chalice Hymnal (found in the pew racks)

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Acknowledgment of Native Americans: A Statement toward Reconciliation

For thousands of years indigenous people have walked in this land, on their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives. We gratefully acknowledge them, past and present, and their stewardship of this land on which we stand.

ⁱ Quote from Chaplain Owen Chandler at the 2023 General Assembly. Attribution for Cover Art: "I Am Mary" series based off of Carol Howard's Advent Devotional, *I Am Mary*. Graphic designed by Kelly Guo specifically for use by North Chevy Chase Christian Church.