

**Welcome to Berea Friendship United Methodist Church as we
celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!**

We gather to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ to our world. If you are new to our community, we welcome you this night. All are invited to participate as we rejoice and worship God. You may want to keep in mind the following as you join in our worship:

- Words in **bold print** are to be said or sung in unison:
- An asterisk (*) indicates that you are to stand if able.

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE Four Chime Prelude (Peele)

*GREETING AND CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION

Rejoicing in the birth of the Christ child, let us gather in peace. Alleluia, Alleluia!

We gather in the name of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Amen, Alleluia!

Christ is born! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christ is born indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia!

*HYMN NO. 246 Joy to the World

*OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

"While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger" (Luke 2:6-7).

Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth -- regardless of circumstances -- reminds us

**of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow,
the promise of God.**

On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know . . .

He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7
SPECIAL MUSIC **O Holy Night** sung by **Tony Vinkus**
*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-10
SERMON "We Have Company" Dr. Keith Ray, II
RESPONDING TO THE WORD IN SILENCE
INVITATION TO COMMUNION
*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
OFFERTORY **Contemplation** (Whether/Will)
*THE DOXOLOGY

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE

*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP
*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Hymnal, p. 15
THE LORD'S PRAYER
BREAKING THE BREAD
GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*You are invited to come forward as we share in the gifts of God for the people of God. In the United Methodist tradition, all are invited to the table who hunger for Christ. You will be given a piece of bread. **Very lightly** dip the bread into the cup and partake of the communion. You may kneel for a time of prayer or simply return to a seat. We will sing the following carols during communion:*

217 Away in a Manger

220 Angels from the Realms of Glory

240 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SERVICE OF THE LIGHT

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

A light no darkness can overcome! Alleluia!

*HYMN No. 239 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother & child.
Holy infant, so tender & mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

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.

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love’s pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

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!

*RESPONSE TO THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

A light no darkness can overcome.

*A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*POSTLUDE **He Is Born** Traditional Carol

*GOING FORTH TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE LIGHT



Christmas Eve Worship

Berea Friendship

United Methodist Church

Greenville, SC

www.bereafriendshipumc.com