

Northside Drive

Baptist Church



The Worship of God

Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

December 14, 2025 | 11:00 AM

“You shall call his name *Emmanuel*,
which means, ‘God with us.’”

- Matthew 1:23

3100 Northside Drive | Atlanta, GA 30305

northsidedrive.org | [@ndbcatlanta](https://twitter.com/ndbcatlanta)

The Worship of God

** Please stand as you are able.*

*The congregation speaks the text in **bold** type.*

The Approach

“Be still and know that I am God.”

PRELUDE

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

INTROIT

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence | J. Rutter

The congregation joins the choir in singing stanza 4

**At his feet the six-wing'd Seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high.**

*CAROL OF PRAISE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen | CHRISTMAS

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

***SERVICE OF THE ADVENT WREATH | The Drinkard Family**

As we begin this day, we await with JOY the Advent of Christ.

We gather as the people of God rejoicing in anticipation of the Advent of Christ.

This, the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love.

In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

Therefore, don't turn me from your door, but harken all both rich and poor.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

The first thing that I will relate, is that God did man create.

We stand today with joyful anticipation of this Advent season which has been celebrated for hundreds of years, yet comes fresh to us with each new year.

As we light the third candle of Advent, we celebrate with the shepherds the good news of the birth of the child whose name was Emmanuel and the angels who sang:

Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people of good will.

(Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy)

GATHERING | SCOTT HOVEY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory we are thirsty for your grace.

You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.

We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word.

We are lifeless when we ought to dance, and speechless when we ought to sing.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Speak peace to our fearful hearts,

strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees

as we seek to follow in your holy way.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***SHARING OUR ANTICIPATION**

Christ is coming!

Christ is coming soon!

***GLORIA | GLORIA**

Gloria in excelsis Deo,

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

INVOCATION | Jackie Poole

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

O God, help us open our eyes to see the true Light of the world and share it with all people.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD - SANCTUARY CHOIR

Sing We Now of Christmas | John Leavitt

This Little Babe, Mary Lou Swann, piano | Benjamin Britten

Sweet Little Jesus Boy, Shantá Johnson, alto | Traditional Spiritual

The Word

"Blessed are they that hear the word of the Lord."

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

Jackie Poole | Old Testament p. 877

MORNING PRAYER & ADVENT LORD'S PRAYER

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace hallowed be your name. Emmanuel, God with us—hallowed be your name. In us, through us, and around us, your kingdom come where the wolf will live with the lamb and the lion will feed with the calf. Bread of life, feed us with your truth. For our indifference to the wonder of your coming, forgive us. Protect us from the constant dangers and enticing temptations we face each day. Word who became flesh and lived among us, we have seen your glory, full of grace and truth. As You come to us now, and You will come to us again in glory, when we will join all heaven and earth in giving you blessing and honor and glory and might forever! Amen.

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Coventry Carol, Joel Stouffer, piano | Mark Hayes

Carol of the Magi, Raj Das, tenor and Inyoung Park, cello | John Rutter

***CAROL OF PREPARATION 162**

The First Noel, the Angel Did Say (stanzas 1, 2, 3, 6) | THE FIRST NOEL

***GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 1:18-21**

Jackie Poole | New Testament p. 1

The Gospel of the Lord

Thanks be to God

THE BIRTH from *Searching for Shalom* | Ann Weems

Some Children See Him, Allison Drinkard, soprano | Alfred Burt Carols

AN UNASSAILABLE TRUTH from *The Faces of Jesus* | Frederick Buechner

The Response

“Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only.”

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP & STEWARDSHIP | Scott Hovey

OFFERING

Please place offering in plate or text NDBCGIVE to “73256” followed by the amount. You can also give online by scanning the QR code below.



MUSICAL OFFERING - SANCTUARY CHOIR

Angels From the Realms of Glory | Dan Forrest

***DOXOLOGY 808** | OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Commission

“. . . and I will be with you always.”

***EMMANUEL WITH US** | Scott Hovey

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, we beheld his glory

the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

***CAROL OF WITNESS 173**

O Come, All Ye Faithful (stanzas 1, 3, 4) | ADESTE FIDELES

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Worship Leader, Jackie Poole

CCLI License #1893416

Choir & Orchestra

Conductor

Len Willingham

Sopranos: Kay Braswell, Allison Drinkard, Virginia Gilbert, Maggie Inman

Altos: Myrtie Cope, Nicosia Garrison, Shantá Johnson, Letty Konenkamp
Jo Meeks

Tenors: Raj Das, JB Gilbert, Hal Meeks

Basses: Douglas Escobar, Don Janney, George Taylor, Dave Wooten,
Jonathan Schroeder

Cello: InYoung Park

Flute: Judith Gilbert, Amy Wright

Oboe: Natalie Beckenbaugh, Allison Robinson

Organ: Melinda Clark

Piano: Joel Stouffer, Mary Lou Swann

Trumpet: Douglas Escobar

Viola: Meghan Yost

Violin: Nina Fronjian, Charles Page

Poinsettia Dedications

Today's poinsettias have been given to the honor
and glory of God.

Kay Braswell

In memory of my parents, George and Mary Ellen Braswell
In memory of my brother, Tom Braswell
In memory of my dog, Winston

Patti and Jordan Clark

In honor of NDBC clergy and staff

Mary Dean

In memory of Kenneth L. Dean

Susan and Hartwell Dew

In memory of Turner Warmack
In thankfulness for our family

Sylvia and Bruce Dick

In memory of Martha and Wilton Looney
In memory of Ruth and Lloyd Dick
In memory of Dan Dalke

Virginia and JB Gilbert

In memory of Coach Gary Jones
In thankfulness for Len and Marty Willingham

Joey and Jack Guynn

In thankfulness; happy holidays and good health to those we love and care about and to those less fortunate

Nancy Hall

In loving memory of Leonard A. Shelton Jr. and Susan Todd Pearson
In thankfulness and love for our Northside Drive Baptist Church family

Kathy Harris

In thankfulness for the faithful of NDBC

Carolyn and Virgil Herndon

In memory of our parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Clyde Herndon, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Willie DeLoach
In thankfulness for our grandchildren, Taylor and Archer Farris, and Cedar and Aspen Inman

Poinsettia Dedications

Today's poinsettias have been given to the honor
and glory of God.

Syd and Don Janney

In thankfulness for Barbara Atchley, Susan Dew and Virginia Gilbert whose tireless preparations made our reimagined Chapel possible

Letty and Steve Konenkamp

In thankfulness for God's blessings

Linda Clark Lester and Extended Family

In memory of my mother, Linda T. Clark.

In memory of my father, Stephen R. Clark, Sr.

In memory of my brother, Stephen R. Clark, Jr.

Melissa Lester

In memory of my uncle, Edmond Bowman Lester

In memory of my husband's cousin, Amanda V. Chibwe

In memory of my mother-in-law, Cloutilda Zulu

In memory of my cousin, Michael Lester

Theron McClarty

In memory of Donna Wilson McClarty

Caroline and Brett Player

In memory of Tom Player

Jackie Poole and Family

In loving memory of Jerry Poole and Valerie Landers

Blanche and Charlton Roberts

With grateful hearts to those faithful angels who make beautiful music for all to enjoy

Robbye Taylor

In memory of Harriet Taylor

Cathy and Dave Wooten

In honor of and in thankfulness for our grandchildren

In memory of our parents, Margaret and Dale Tucker, and Betty and Oscar Wooten