

The Passing of the Christmas Light

Men: In the quiet of the night a husband becomes a father: A personal act of faith;
Accepting God's charge upon him.

**Women: In the quiet of the night a woman gives birth: A personal act of faith;
Accepting God's charge upon her.**

All: In the quiet of the night a baby breathes the air for the first time:
A personal act of sacrifice;
God steps out of the divine into the mundane. . .for us.

Solo.Mary Donahue
"The Virgin's Slumber Song" . . .Max Reger

Carol. "Silent Night, Holy Night"

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.

Silent night, holy night, Darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing, "Alleluia! Hail the King!
Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born."

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.

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.

The Lord's Prayer *(Please extinguish candles following the prayer.)*
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 trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

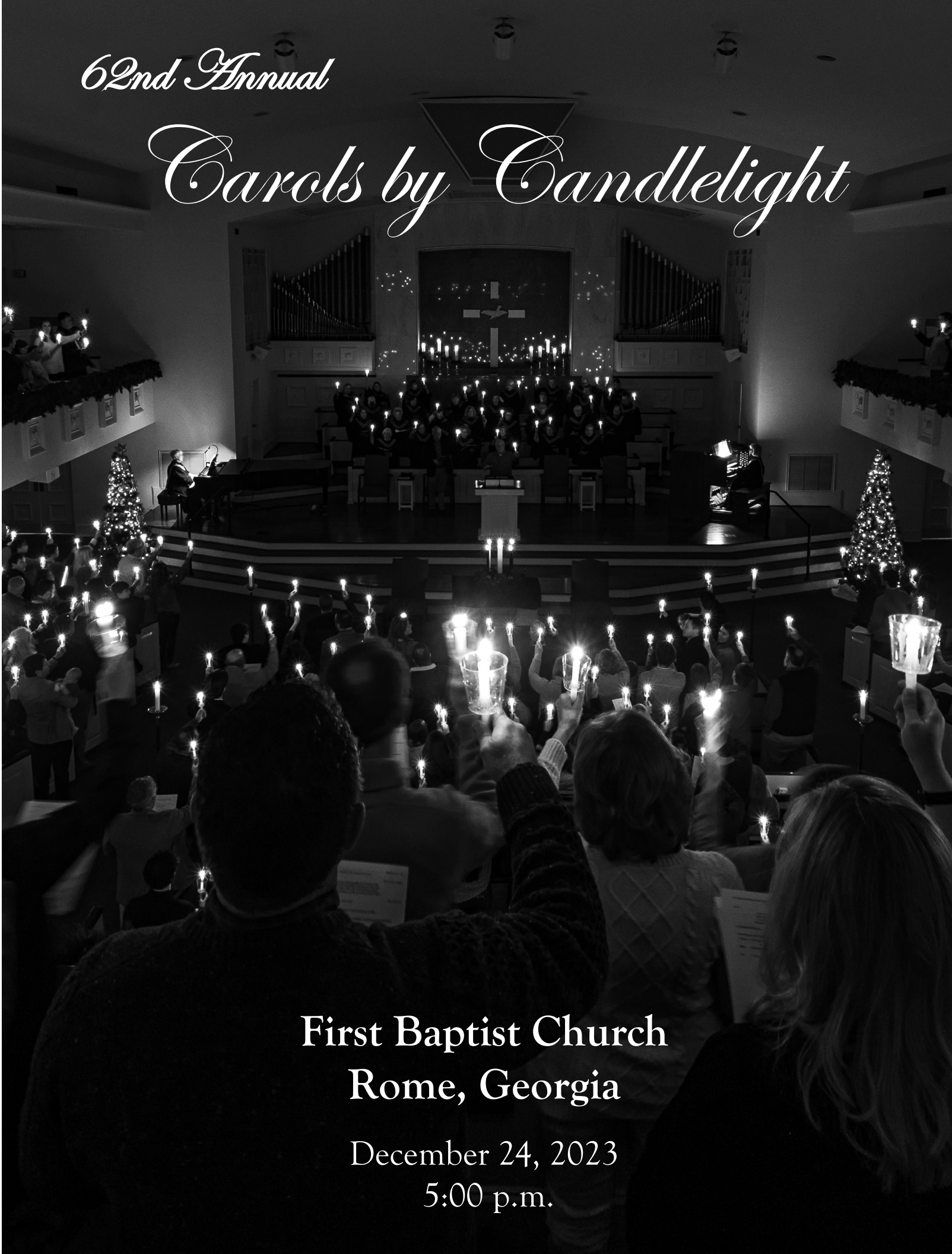
Pastoral Blessing

Benediction



Im - ma - nu - el, our God is with us, and if God is
with us who could stand a- gainst us? Our God is with us Im- ma - nu - el!

PostludeJoan Hill/Beverly Harris
"Good Christian Men, Rejoice" . . .arr. Anna Laura Page



First Baptist Church
Rome, Georgia
December 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.

Carols by Candlelight

To help maintain a spirit of worship, please silence phones.

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude. Beverly Harris, piano; Joan Hill, organ
“Angels We Have Heard on High” ...arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome. David Brooks, Pastor

Carol of Praise. “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant. O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels. O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Lighting the Christ Candle Jordan, Ann, Caroline, Wes and Pace Knight

Our Advent journey is now complete. The darkness is gone.

The Light of the World is here!

The Son of God has come to live among us.

For this reason He is called Immanuel, for through Him God is with us!

Response. “His Name Is Called Immanuel”

His name is called Immanuel, more wonderful than words can tell. God is with us! Alleluia!

Born in our darkness He is Light; born in our weakness He is Might.

God is with us! Alleluia! God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Christmas Story in Word and Song

Solo. Frank Murphy
“O, Holy Night”...Adolphe Adam

The Birth of Jesus is Announced to Mary and Joseph. Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25
Chelsea Losh and Bobby Jones, readers

Carol. “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill all the world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Preparation for the Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-5
Gwen Stephens, Minister to Extended Family, reader

Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Jesus Is Born Luke 2:6-7
David Brooks, Pastor, reader

Solo. Keith Reaves, *Senior Associate/Minister of Worship*
“Ten Thousand Joys”...arr. Don Marsh

Jesus’ Birth Is Announced to the Shepherds. Luke 2:8-14
Kristen Mathis, Minister of Faith Development, reader

Carol. “The First Nowell”

The first nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

For all to see there was a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

The Shepherds Find Baby Jesus. Luke 2:15-18
Nick Georgian, Minister to Youth/Missions, reader

Anthem. Sanctuary Choir
“Caribbean Cradle Carol”...arr. Jay Rouse

The Wise Men Bring Their Gifts to Jesus. Matthew 2:1-12
Tamara Tillman Smathers, Minister of Education/Administration, reader

Carol “We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

A Christmas Reflection. Rev. Brooks
“What Are You Waiting For?”