

**CHRISTMAS EVE: A SPECIAL GIFT**  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BOULDER**  
December 24, 2008

Prelude

Ryan Connell

The Call To Celebrate on Christmas Eve 2008

Slayden Yarbrough

Come, let us worship the child of Bethlehem,  
**The Word made Flesh, Immanuel,**  
God with us, The Prince of Peace, Son of the Most High.  
**Come, let us worship the Christ-child!**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Judy and Bob Rothe Family

**Scripture Reading:** Selections from Isaiah 9:6-7;

*For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us. . .*

*And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

*There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,*

*On the throne of David and over His kingdom,*

*To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness*

*From then on and forevermore,*

*The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.*

**Lighting the Candles:** (Light all candles) The gathering light is now full. This is the night of celebration! Tonight we light again the Advent candles of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

We also light the fifth candle, THE CHRIST CANDLE, which symbolizes unity and purity. God has said, "yes" to our waiting! With the shepherds we marvel at what God has done. With the angels we sing our praises. With wise men we bring gifts, especially the gift of ourselves.

**Prayer:** *On this eve before Christmas Day, let our hearts be warmed with the hope, the love, the joy, the peace, and the unity that comes from the birth of the Christ child. Give us the wisdom and the strength to proclaim His birth, His life, and His Mission to all that we encounter until we celebrate anew this season. Amen*

**Special Music** {Lukas - fill this in}

**Carols of Praise**

# 157 Good Christian Friends Rejoice (3 verses)

# 173 O Come, All Ye Faithful (3 verses)

**Affirmation of God's Gift** [see last year's program for responsive reading]

**Response**

# 171 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (3 verses)

**The Announcement**

Scripture:

Luke 1:26b-38; Matthew 1:18-23

Slayden Yarbrough

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

*David Harris*

**The Birth**

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7

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Silent Night (sung in German)

David Harris

**The Angels Sing**

Scripture

Luke 2:8-14

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*What Child is This?*

*David Harris*

**The Shepherds Go and See**

Scripture  
*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Luke 2:15-20

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*David Harris*

**Christmas Giving**

Giving Opportunities

Carriage House

Slayden Yarbrough

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Slayden Yarbrough

Our Father Who has given us the greatest gift, the gift of the Christ child,  
Help us to share this gift by giving to others out of love and compassion,  
As You have demonstrated Your love and compassion for us. Amen

Ave Verum Corpus K. 618 (Mozart)

*David Harris*

**The Storyteller**

**A Special Gift**

(children come down to the front)

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**A Gift of Song**

*O Holy Night*

*David Harris*

**Sharing the Light of Christ**

[Call the two assistants, light the Christ candle, let the assistants light their candles,  
call forth the people, row by row, to come, light their candles,  
move to the right and left and form the circle of light as we sing the carols]  
(Please sing first verses as we light our candles and circle the sanctuary)

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**Away in the Manger**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**The First Noel**

**Silent Night**

**A Christmas Prayer**

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Slayden Yarbrough

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Closing Carol**

**# 146 Joy to the World!**

**The Benediction**

Slayden Yarbrough

Now may God Almighty, the Great Giver of Gifts,  
through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, grant you the peace and joy of Christmas  
in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of His great Gift, His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen!

**Postlude**

*Christmas Songs Medley*

Ryan Connell