

Communion Hymn

Come, O Long-expected Jesus

125

Invitation to Faithful Stewardship and the Lord's Table

Pastor

Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Becky Kidd and Rev. Wendy Wyche

Words of Institution

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

One: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said,

Many: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

One: In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,

Many: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

(Christ invites you to partake of Holy Communion. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us. You may partake of communion by intinction. Please come forward, break off a piece of bread and dip it into the chalice. Holy Communion will also be served by our Deacons to those in chairs who choose to not come forward and wish to partake.)

Prayer of Commission

God our help: We thank you for this supper, shared in the spirit with your son Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Him and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.

*Carol of Going Forth

Joy to the World

143

*Benediction

Pastor

Organ Postlude

Noel IV

d'Aquin

Chrismson Service

December 6, 2015



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Welcome and Announcements & Passing of the Peace of Christ Rev. Dr. James Brewer-Calvert
(As the risen Christ greeted his beloved disciples with the greeting, "Peace be with you," let us now turn and greet one another in mutual love.)

***Processional Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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***Call to Worship**

Becky Kidd

One: Take comfort, people of God. Your sad days are gone; your sins are forgiven.

Many: Shout! For our God makes a clear path, levels the land and makes our way straight.

One: The Glory of the Lord is revealed. The Lord has spoken.

Many: Shout! For like grass the people fade, but the word of God stands forever.

All: ...shout from the mountaintops!

Shout it louder, O Jerusalem.

Shout, and do not be afraid. Amen!

***Unison Prayer of Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

God of Comfort, whose Spirit spoke tenderly to Jerusalem, give your people rest this morning as we wait for a word from you. You are the God who speaks. So fill us with assurance and boundless confidence that our lives cannot but shout your love revealed.

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.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Peace Candle

Wendy Wyche

One: Last Sunday, we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath, the candle of Hope. Let us light it again, as a symbol of our desire for healing and wholeness for our world. Our hope is God's way of Shalom.

(The Hope candle is lit.)

John the Baptist called on the people of his day to get ready for the coming of the Messiah. They were to repent – turn around – change their focus. The peace we seek grows out of a willingness to repent and change direction.

Many: We light this second candle to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. His life has shown us ways to share God's peace with others.

(The Peace candle is lit.)

One: Let us join together in a prayer for peace for ourselves and our world using the words of the International Peace Prayer.

Many: Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen

All Sing: *When God Is a Child*

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*Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.*

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

The Cross and Orb:

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans. ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." **John 4:9-10** *(The Orb symbolizes the world. The cross symbolizes the triumph of Christ.)*

The Iota-Chi:

⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and gave him the name, that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Philippians 2:9-11**
(This Greek monogram consists of the first letters of the Greek words for "Jesus Christ.")

The Crown:

¹⁵Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he shall reign forever and ever." **Revelation 11:15**
(The Crown symbolizes sovereignty and shows that Christ is the Ruler over all Creation.)

PRESENTATION OF THE IOTA-ETA SYMBOL

Joanna Trapp

We will now place the symbol of Iota-Eta on the Chrismon Tree. The Iota-Eta Sigma monogram consists of the first three letters of the Greek word for "Jesus."

IHS and Cross:

Jay and Peggy Norton



²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **Matthew 1:21**

⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

(The Iota-Eta Sigma monogram consists of the first three letters of the Greek word for "Jesus.")

Choral Anthem

Jesus Christ is Born Today

Robert Lau

The Dove and Shell:



¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; ¹⁷And a voice from heaven, said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." **Matthew 3:16-17** *(Just as Jesus was baptized at the beginning of his ministry, so the risen Christ instructed his disciples to go and baptize others. The shell with three drops of water falling from it symbolizes baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.)*

Choral Anthem

God's Best Gift

Robert Lau

PRESENTATION OF THE SYMBOLS OF VICTORY

Stephen Oliver

We will now place the symbols of victory on the Chrismon tree. These symbols include the Fish, Shepherd's Staff, Cross and Orb, Iota-Chi, and Crown. Each of these symbols remind us of the true nature and nurture of Jesus Christ.

Victory Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

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Chi Rho w/Alpha & Omega:



¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." **Revelation 22:13** *(Chi and Rho are the first two letters of the Greek word "christos," that is Christ. This is one of the most ancient of Christian symbols. The word "Chrismon," when first used specifically referred to the Chi-Rho of Christ's monogram.)*

The Fish:



¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." **Matthew 4:19** *(The first letters of the Greek words for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior" from the Greek word for fish, "Icthus")*

The Shepherd's Staff:



¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **John 10:11**

(The crook or staff is the Shepherd's tool for guiding sheep, and therefore, symbolic of Christ, the Good Shepherd.)

Introduction to Chrismons

Stephen Oliver

At Christmas, not only does the star lead us to Bethlehem, but also to Nazareth, Galilee, Capernaum, Jerusalem, Calvary, and Heaven. For as part of Jesus' birth, we also celebrate His life and ministry, death and resurrection, and ultimate victory over the powers of sin and death.

Like the three kings, we present our gifts to Jesus and to one another. Today we will present our offering in the form of CHRISMONS. Chrismon is a combination of two words of **CHRIST** and **MONogram**. A Chrismon is a symbol of Christ. Christian symbols date back to the early church. They are found on the walls of the Roman catacombs, on jewelry and utensils from excavations in Palestine and elsewhere. Early Christians used them to identify themselves to one another, to designate meeting places, and sometimes to show seekers symbols of their faith. These symbols of the early church served to transmit the faith and beliefs of the followers of Jesus Christ.

For generations the members and friends of First Christian Church of Decatur have been decorating a Chrismon Tree in our Sanctuary. Each Chrismon is described here in the worship bulletin and refers to some aspect of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and His Church. As each section is introduced, will all those with the Chrismons described in that section, please come forward and place your symbol on the Chrismon Tree during the singing of the next hymn.

PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY SYMBOLS

Stephen Oliver

We will now place the Nativity symbols on the Chrismon tree. These symbols, including the Epiphany Star, Christmas Rose, Manger, and Angel, speak to our joy that the Lord sent the only begotten Son of God to earth to show us the pathway to love and life everlasting.

Nativity Hymn

Away in a Manger

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The EPIPHANY STAR:



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' **Matthew 2:1-2**

¹⁶It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'

Revelation 22:16b

The Christmas Rose:



The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Isaiah 35:1-2a

The Manger: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. **Luke 2:1-7**



The Angel:



In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!' **Luke 2:8-14**

Choral Anthem *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Robert Lau

PRESENTATION OF THE PASSION SYMBOLS Joonna Trapp
We will now place the Passion symbols on the Chrismon tree. These liturgical symbols include the Chalice, Latin Cross, Jerusalem Cross, Tan Cross with Serpent, Sacrificial Lamb, Butterfly, and Dove and Shell. Each of these have served to point people of God to the One who created and creates.

Hymn *The First Noel* 151

The Chalice: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **Matthew 26: 26-28**



The Latin Cross:



¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. ¹⁷So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. **John 19: 16-18** (This cross with its longer upright than crossbar is the probable form on which Jesus was crucified, therefore, the foremost symbol of Christianity.)

The Jerusalem Cross:



²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands. Reach out your hand, and put it in my side. Do not doubt, but believe." **John 20:27** (This Cross-is in the form of a Greek Cross with a smaller cross on each corner. The Larger cross symbolizes the wounds in Christ's side and the smaller crosses, the wounds in his hands and feet.)

The Tau Cross with Serpent:



¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:14-16** (This symbol is a parallel between Christ's resurrection and an Old Testament story. When the Israelites were in the wilderness, many suffered death by being bitten by poisonous snakes. They begged Moses for relief, and God instructed Moses to make a serpent of brass and hang it on a pole. Anyone who was bitten by a snake was to look at the brass snake. When he did, he would live.)

The Sacrificial Lamb:



⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he didn't open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. **Isaiah 53:4-7**

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" **John 1:29**

The Butterfly:



¹After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone, and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴for fear of him he guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.

Come; see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him. This is my message for you.' **Matthew 28:1-7** (Just as the caterpillar spins a cocoon and lies encased in a seemingly dead shell only to emerge in a changed from as a beautiful butterfly, so Jesus was entombed, but rose from the dead.)