

Crabtree Valley Baptist Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 17, 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

Prelude "What Child Is This" Cheryl Walker

Welcome and Announcements Dr. Bill Slater

PRAISING THE LORD

Call to Worship #7 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Invocation Dr. Bill Slater

Reading and Lighting the Candle of Joy Barbara Goodson and Ellen Collins

Old Testament Lesson Zephaniah 3:14-17

Responsive Reading:

Leader: We worship God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

People: We eagerly wait to share in the joy of the Christ Child.

Leader: Jesus is the source of joy for a dark and dreary world.

People: Jesus is our joy!

ALL: This day we light the candle of joy to represent the joy in our hearts because of the coming of the Savior. May we know the joy of Christ in our lives this day. Amen

Hymn #87 "Joy to the World! The Lord is Come" Congregation

PRAISE THE LORD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Receiving of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" Cheryl Walker

Doxology #253 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Congregation

LISTENING TO HIS WORD

Anthem Medley from "Gather at the Manger" Choir

Church Staff

Youth Director: Anna Clark
Pianist: Cheryl Walker

Music Director: Risa Poniros
Secretary: Peggy Utley

HEARING GOD'S MESSAGE

Scripture	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Dr. Bill Slater
Pastoral Prayer with The Lord's Prayer		
Special Music	"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"	Risa Poniros
Sermon	"Surprised by Joy"	Dr. Bill Slater

RESPONDING TO HIS WORD

Hymn #85	"The First Nowell"	Congregation
Benediction		Dr. Bill Slater
Response	"Go Now in Peace"	Choir
Postlude		Cheryl Walker

We welcome Dr. Bill Slater as our guest preacher this month. A native of Virginia, Dr. Slater felt called into the ministry during his junior year of high school. He served as pastor of four churches during 44 years of ministry, having retired last year after 17 years as Senior Pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church. He earned degrees from Southern Baptist Seminary (M Div) and Southeastern Baptist Seminary (Doctorate) and currently serves part-time with the RBA as Director of Church health and Spiritual Directions. His wife Kathy just retired this fall after teaching elementary special needs students for 32 years. Together, they have two daughters and two granddaughters, ages 9 and 4.

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