



“Good, New” by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Cover Art - Artist Statement

We often link fear and anxiety to bad news. But what about the moments when the news is good—almost too good to believe? The dream job offer arrives. The long-hoped-for pregnancy test is finally positive. The illness goes into sudden remission.

Euphobia, the fear of good news, often stems from past losses, fear of change, or the pressure of new expectations. Joy and relief may come first, but they’re often followed by a quiet dread. *What now? What could this mean?*

In Luke’s Nativity story, even angelic news stirs overwhelm. The shepherds tremble. Mary ponders. As she wraps her newborn in cloth, what thoughts rise in her heart?

The word “new” is nestled in “good news”—a reminder that even the best gifts lie beyond our control. In the birth of Jesus, we witness the mystery of it all: the terrifying, the unexpected, the good, and the new that hope often brings.

-Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God’s love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6

The Worship of God

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

Christmas Sing-Along

Led by the GBC Children’s Choir

“Jingle Bells” Words and Music by James Lord Pierpont

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Traditional French Carol

“Feliz Navidad” Words and Music by José Feliciano

“Away in a Manger”
MUELLER and CRADLE SONG
Words from *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*
Music by James R. Murray and William James Kirkpatrick

“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow” FOLLOW
Traditional Black Spiritual

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas” Traditional English Carol

Prelude

“Coventry Carol” arr. Howard Cable
The GraceTones

Welcome

April Alston

Call to Worship

- One: On this holy night, we come,
All: dazzled and awe-struck, ready to sing alongside the angels.
One: On this holy night, we come,
All: eager and hopeful, ready to journey alongside the shepherds.
One: On this holy night, we come,
All: quietly and tenderly, ready to worship alongside Mary.
One: On this holy night, we come,
All: singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming: good news is louder than fear.
One: Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Cathy Perkinson and Becky Sansbury

†Opening Carol #249

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES
Latin Hymn attr. John Francis Wade
Music by John Francis Wade arr. David Willcocks

**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!**

Refrain:

**O Come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him— Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav’n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv’n:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)**

Children’s Sermon

April Alston

Pastoral Prayer

Anna Beth Cross

†Carol #277

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN
Words by Charles Wesley (alt.)
Music by Felix Mendelssohn arr. David Willcocks

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Call to the Offering

John Duren

Offertory Anthem

“Love’s Pure Light (Silent Night)”
GBC Choir

by Elaine Hagenberg

†Doxology for Christmas Eve

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
has come to thee, O Israel.

VENI EMMANUEL
Words by Thomas Ken
15th Century French Melody

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Bob and Joy Millikan

Reflection

Good News Is Louder Than Fear

Bo Prosser

Communion

Bo Prosser and Anna Beth Cross

“Still, Still, Still”
GBC Choir

Traditional Austrian Carol
arr. Norman Luboff

“O Holy Night”
Christian McIvor and Pam Weis

Words by Placide Cappeau
adapt. John Dwight
Music by Adolphe Adam

†Musical Reflection

“What Do You Fear?”
GBC Worship Band

ST. LOUIS / WHAT DO YOU FEAR?
Words by Christian McIvor
Music by Lewis Henry Redner
and Christian McIvor ©2025

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5

Bo Prosser

Carol #253

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT
Words by Joseph Mohr trans. John F. Young
Music by Franz Grüber

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, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar; heavenly hosts sing alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

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!

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.

†Carol #270 (Stanzas 1, 2, and 4) “Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH
Words by Isaac Watts
Music by George F. Handel arr. Lowell Mason

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Postlude

“The First Nowell”
Pam Weis

Dave Paxton

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