

ADDITIONAL CONCERTS

This is the 16th year of this intimate Advent Series.

We hope you have found yourself welcomed and nourished by this time and space for grace.

Please, join us for our next concerts!

December 17 | Shelley Maddox, soprano & Casey Childers

THE LONGEST NIGHT

Christmas is nearly here. The postal service mail carriers are working long hours, the lights are beginning to appear and the anticipation is brimming. For some this time of year is full of tinsel, lights and joyful carols. For others, it can be a struggle as nights get longer and deadlines draw closer.

Winter Solstice is the longest night of the year falling on December 21. On the evening that offers the most darkness, FCC is offering a sacred space for worship. Please join us for "The Longest Night on Sunday, December 21 at 5pm.

Someone you know will be experiencing Christmas for the first time without their spouse, without their parent, without their child, or without their friend.. Someone you know will be experiencing Christmas feeling isolated with depression and anxiety. Someone you know may be experiencing a terminal illness, realizing it could be their last time in this sacred part of the year.

With prayers, congregational singing, special music, healing stations and words of hope, we pray that it's a time of sacred community. If you or someone you know need a space to be surrounded by love and comfort, join us.

Come, be with community. Hold on. Hope will find you.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
WILSON, N.C.

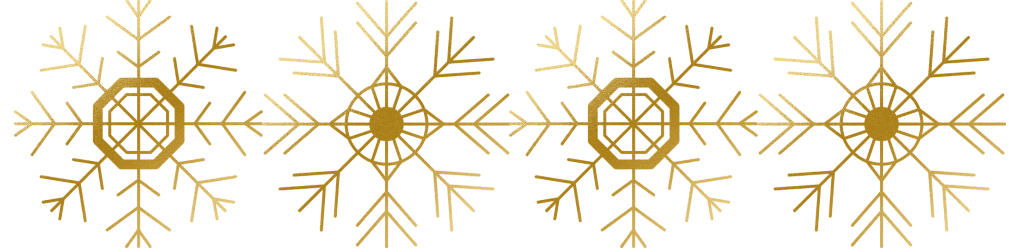
ADVENT SERIES

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 10, 2025
12:00 NOON

MATTHEW JOYNER, TENOR
CASEY CHILDERS, PIANIST



207 TARBORO ST. N
FREE - OPEN TO ALL
WWW.FCCWILSON.ORG



PROGRAM

Go, Tell It On the Mountain Molly Ijames b. 1978

L'enfance du Christ, Op. 25 Hector Berlioz
Les pèlerins étant venus 1803-1869

Three Fifteenth Century Carols

I. A babe is born Toby Young b. 1990

II. I sing of a maiden John Rutter b. 1945

III. This endris night Sarah Quartel b. 1982

Songs for the Christ-Child Gwyneth Walker b. 1947

I. Hebrides Lullaby

II. Cherry Tree Carol

III. Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

IV. Go Tell It On the Mountain

Here We Come A-Caroling Molly Ijames

Silent Night Moses Hogan
1957-2003

Matthew Joyner is the Director of Choirs at Ralph L. Fike High School where he teaches mixed chorus and the Fike Vocal Ensemble. He graduated with his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from East Carolina University where he studied voice under John Kramar and Daniel Shirley, and choral methods under Andrea VanDeusen. There he was a member of the world-renowned choir, the ECU Chamber Singers (James Franklin, director), and an active member in the ECU Opera Theatre. He has sung under major clinicians such as Simon Carrington and

John Rutter, and also performed the roles of Lord Tolloller in Arthur Sullivan's *Iolanthe* and Mr. Erlansen in Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*. Joyner is also a highly regarded and sought after tenor soloist and keyboardist for church services and recitals, recently performing as tenor soloist in Bach's *Magnificat* (2024), Handel's *Messiah* (2023) and Camille Saint-Saën's *Oratorio de Noël* (2019).

Mr. Joyner is active as a thespian and music director. He made his Wilson theater debut as the Doctor/Escapologist in 2019's summer musical, *Matilda: The Musical*, and has music directed both ACT for Youth and Playhouse productions including *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow: The Musical* (October 2019), *A Little Princess: The Musical* (February 2020) and *SpongeBob: The Musical* (October 2021). Mr. Joyner is an active member of NAFME (National Association for Music Education), NCMEA (North Carolina Music Educator's Association), ACDA (American Choral Director's Association), and Pi Kappa Lambda Honors Society.

Casey has been serving First Christian full time since 2007 when she arrived as organist. She served this position while gaining the Masters of Music degree in Organ Performance and Sacred Music from East Carolina University as well as the Colleagues' Certification (CAGO) through the American Guild of Organists. Prior to this she received Bachelor of Music degrees from Appalachian State University in both Music (Clarinet) Performance and Music Education (K-12). In time aside from First Christian, Casey serves as accompanist for the James B. Hunt High School Choral Program and runs her professional photography business. She loves spending time with her husband, Andrew, sons, Jackson (9) & Phillip (5), thrifting, gardening, cleaning and all things photography.