



*Come to Bethlehem
and receive God's gift of Love*

December 24, 2022

A very merry Christmas to all who come to worship the Christ Child.

Our service this evening tells the story of the manger in lessons, responsive readings, and prayers. At the high point, the Procession of the Christ Child comes to the manger where the gospel of Christ's birth is read and the Christ Child is placed in the manger.

An array of candles exemplify the Christ as "light of the world" (John 8:12), as the light is gradually spread during the service from the Advent Wreath to candles throughout the church.

Candles, processions, colorful adornments, carols and songs, all combine to witness to the beauty and awe of this holy night.

* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able
italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Courtney Woolslayer, soloist

JOEL RANEY

Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:
prayers of those who seek re - lief.
End their dark - ness, hear their call for
peace on earth, good will for all.

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RESPONSIVE LITANY

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and grant us peace.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and bring us true joy.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and fill us with love.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

OPENING PRAYER

God of light, tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We thank you for this, the most precious of Christmas gifts, and we ask that you keep the hope, peace, joy and love of this season in our hearts, now and throughout the coming year. Emmanuel – God is with us, now and forevermore. Amen.

INTROIT

Once In Royal David's City

Courtney Woolslayer, soloist

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-13, 17-19

Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation

CAROL #121 verses 1 and 3

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah

CAROL #123 verses 1 and 5

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold.
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

5. For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child

CAROL #119 verses 1 and 2

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. 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!”

2. 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 God-head see; hail the incarnate deity,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Courtney Woolslayer, Ethan Dobbins, Rachel and Charlie Dell’Orefice

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah

CAROL #113 verse 1

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-5

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

CAROL #133 verse 1

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. 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!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

HOMILY

Now, Where Did the Baby Go?

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING

***HYMN #134** verses 1 and 4

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

4. 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 wonder, wonders of his love.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Dear God, we cannot thank you enough for the gift of your Son. Through your grace, you have given us everything, including our very lives. On this night, we celebrate the miracle of Christmas! But when the candles are blown out, when the angels and shepherds have gone home, may we continue to shine your light into the world through the giving of these offerings. And so we offer you yet another gift: our partnership to build your reign here on earth. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

In joy and thanksgiving at Christ's birth, let us sing to the Lord a new song,

On earth peace, good will among people.

We pray for all faithful people, for all welcome messengers of good news, let us sing to the Lord a new song,

On earth peace, good will among people.

For the nations and their rulers, for anyone with power over the lives of others, let us sing to the Lord a new song,

On earth peace, good will among people.

For those who defend the helpless, for those who strive for justice, for those who work to find a way to peace, for all the world, and all who live in it, let us sing to the Lord a new song,

On earth peace, good will among people.

For anyone suffering, sick, alone, afraid, or in any kind of trouble. We pray especially for... Let us sing to the Lord a new song,

On earth peace, good will among people.

For our own community, for friends, neighbors, and family, near and far. Let us sing to the Lord a new song,

On earth peace, good will among people.

For those who have died. We pray especially for ... Let us sing to the Lord a new song,

On earth peace, good will among people.

We offer thanksgiving for Mary's firstborn Son—good news of great joy. Let us sing to the Lord a new song,

On earth peace, good will among people.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. Before the eyes of all the nations you sent your Son, the exact imprint of love itself, to be our salvation. With the shepherds in the fields, let us go now to Bethlehem, there to find Christ in our hearts, and in the world. Amen.

SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING (Please remain seated during the singing of the first verse of the following)

#115 Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

#132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

#145 What Child is This?

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

#122 Silent Night, Holy Night!

1. 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.

2. 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!”
3. 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.
4. 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.

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS This week’s carillon is in memory of our “Loved Ones”.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: This week we are asking for can soups/broths and Produce that does not require refrigeration. Bring your item(s) to the church during the week or next Sunday morning. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.

FIRST WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LUNCH: On January 4 beginning at noon, there will be the next lunch at the church featuring a special speaker. This month we will hear from Nancy Haines Spears. Nancy served as a Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corp, including a year in a Mash hospital in Vietnam. Bring your own bag lunch.

FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP – JANUARY 6, 2023, 6:00 – 7:30PM: Our mission focus will be on helping others keep warm. We will welcome donations of warm weather clothing, new or used. We will also be making fleece blankets. Dinner will be potluck of soup and bread. We will need a few donated pots of soup and loaves of bread. Please sign up for the event and let us know if you want to donate food for the meal. Not everyone needs to bring food.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – JANUARY 16: Our friends at Thompson Memorial Church are having a special day of service that will partner with organizations like Rise Against Hunger, World Vision, and Fisherman’s Mark. The day begins with registration at 9:00 followed by a performance by the Parkway Drumline. The whole event will conclude at noon. Sign up for participation by going to the following link: <https://tmpc.org/mlk>.

<u>Calendar:</u>	December 25	10:00am	Christmas Day Service.
	December 26		Offices Closed.
	December 28	12:00pm	Lunch Bunch, bring your lunch.
		6:00pm	Boy Scouts – CPR Training.
	December 29	8:00am	Boy Scouts – CPR Training.
	December 30	8:00am	Boy Scouts – CPR Training.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Elder of the Month: Michael Myers Deacon of the Month: Marilyn Cook

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari,
 Jim Turner, Violet Sanders, Steve Rash, Bill Yerkes, David Posnett, Mary Lou Humlhanz



Church Staff
Susan Fall, Pastor
Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager
Natalia Blinova, Childcare
Mark Lempp, Grounds Keeper

