



Sunday Worship



December 29, 2024

Draw near to God

for God is waiting for you.

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

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rejoice in God! Marvel at all that God has done!

Our eyes have seen the glory of God, made known to us.

Rejoice in God, Creator of all that has life.

Our eyes have seen the love of God, come to us in a baby.

Rejoice in God, giver of redemption and grace.

Our eyes have seen God's redeeming love, alive in Jesus.

Rejoice in God, the Spirit of peace and grace.

Our eyes have seen the power of God at work in changing the world.

Let us worship God together.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Lord of mercy and joy, you have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN #143** Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

3. Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

4. All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS

We confess, O God, that we are not ready to come down from the Christmas “high.” So much time was spent in gathering, wrapping, and delivering gifts; in preparing for family gatherings and times with friends; in decorating our homes. But somehow, right after Christmas Day, we feel a letdown. We don’t want that “high” to be over. We want to feel the “peace on earth” feeling, but we let it go. We push it aside when we begin our journey of complaining and blaming others for everything that is going wrong. We ignore the blessing of the gift when we refuse to help those in need. Shake us up, Lord! Get us ready to be people of compassion and hope. Wake us up, Lord! Help us see the beauty and possibilities of peace around us. Fill us up, Lord! Fill us to overflowing with joy. Let our words, our thoughts, and our actions speak of your love for us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING

...Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.

***HYMN #132** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1. 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!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 148

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN #146** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

1. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior? Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

2. Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;
heaven’s star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.

3. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story; praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 2:42-51

SERMON Finding God

***A CHRISTMAS CREED FROM LATIN AMERICA**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel which began in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room in the inn. I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history, for whom the kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud. I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind and the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Savior. I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud, and with his life, showed that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest joy is in giving your life for others. I believe in peace, which means justice among all peoples and nations and love among all. I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness and the transforming power of the gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change if, with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger. I believe that I must be the first one to do so. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

OFFERTORY

****DOXOLOGY***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION***

God of all good gifts, who gives freely to us, have mercy on us and grant us the peace that only the Prince of Peace can provide. Grant that our lives would be an offering, and that our work would be a good gift, just as the gifts that the wise men brought, pleasing to you and fit for the king of all creation. We look to you, our Prophet, Priest and King, to rule the world with justice, and to give salvation to all who call upon you. Amen.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who is 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

****HYMN #136*** Go, Tell It on the Mountain

REFRAIN: Go, tell it on mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens their shone a holy light. *Refrain*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled when high above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

****BENEDICTION***

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, December 22, 2024

This week's carillon

WELCOME JENNIFER STEPHENSON AND DAUGHTER HAZEL: who are our guest musicians this week.

NEW YEAR'S FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP: Friday, January 3, 2025 will be hosting at Forest Grove Church with Anchor Church as our guest for a silly "White Elephant" gift exchange for the Epiphany. We will make blankets for our mission project. Soup and salad for dinner. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the Church office.

OUR OLD CHURCH BELL: A sub committee met last Sunday to begin to think about the placement of the church bell that was formerly in the steeple. If you have an interest in this project please contact Janice Propsner at: rpropsner@comcast.net, Cell# 215-527-4739

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: This week we are asking for the following items: Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Soup. Donations are to be placed in the wagon found in the vestibule.

This week's calendar of events:

December 29 10:00 am Worship and Sunday School followed by Coffee Hour
4:00 pm Iglesia Pentecostal Asamblea De Dios Worship Service

The office will be closed December 31 – January 5

Elder of the month: Bill Wark **Deacon of the month:** Maggie Realley

Ushers: **Coffee Hour Fellowship:**

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Marge and Jim Turner, Violet Sanders, Gail Shaffer, Doris Daniels, Janice Propsner, Maggie Rash



Church Staff
Susan Fall, Pastor
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager

