



Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24, 2023
5PM

INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER *(please stand)*

Christmas Eve Reading - Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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!***

Highest, most holy, light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

[Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:

[Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing!

[Refrain]

NICENE CREED *(please be seated)*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

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And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above;
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O, morning stars together proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n;
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.

O, holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O, come to us abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Christmas Eve Reading - Micah 5:2-5

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds, In fields as they lay;
In fields where they Lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, Beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord,
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Christmas Eve Reading - Hebrews 1:1-9

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." ⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon a 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 men from heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing

Still thro' the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing

I'm Gonna Need God For This!

¹⁸“O earth, cover not my blood, and let my cry find no resting place. ¹⁹Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and he who testifies for me is on high. ²⁰My friends scorn me; my eye pours out tears to God, ²¹that he would argue the case of a man with God, as a son of man does with his neighbor. ²²For when a few years have come I shall go the way from which I shall not return.

MANGER MEDLEY (Choir leads congregation)

Away in a manger no crib for a bed;
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes;
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky;
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

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.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings, salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe the Son of Mary.

SPECIAL MUSIC - "Heaven Is In This House"

SILENT NIGHT (Choir leads congregation)

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."

PRAYERS

BENEDICTION

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.

Offerings may be placed in the plates near the exit to the sanctuary.

***Christmas Eve Worship tonight 9pm.
Christmas Day Worship tomorrow at 10am.***

