

**December 15, 2024**

**Welcome**

**The Hymn of Invocation**

**350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come**

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|--|---|
| 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,<br>Only hope for sinful mortals!<br>Come, O Savior of the world!<br>Open are to Thee all portals.<br>Come, Thy beauty let us see;<br>Anxiously we wait for Thee.     | 3 My hosannas and my palms<br>Graciously receive, I pray Thee;<br>Evermore, as best I can,<br>Savior, I will homage pay Thee,<br>And in faith I will embrace,<br>Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace. |
| 2 Enter now my waiting heart,<br>Glorious King and Lord most holy.<br>Dwell in me and ne'er depart,<br>Though I am but poor and lowly.<br>Ah, what riches will be mine<br>When Thou art my guest divine! | 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!<br>Jesus, hear our supplication!<br>Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,<br>Bring us blessing and salvation,<br>That forever we may sing:<br>Hail! Hosanna to our King.   |

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In the name of the Father,  
**The Creator of all things seen and unseen.**

In the name of the Son,  
**The Redeemer of the world, Emmanuel, God with us.**

In the name of the Holy Spirit,  
**The One who calls us to faith and helps us live as God's children.**

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us,  
**Not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.**

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace,  
**We might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.**

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.  
**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**Hymn of Confession**.....sung to: *On Jordan's Bank*

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
And make us rise to fall no more;  
Oh, let your face upon us shine And fill the world with love divine.

Our God saves us not because of things we have done, but because of what Jesus has done for us. Through His incarnation, holy life, sacrificial death and glorious resurrection God draws us to Himself. It is my joyful duty to announce the full forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise**.....sung to: *On Jordan's Bank*

All praise to you, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore, And holy Spirit, evermore.

### **Prayer**

Grant, we humbly pray, O heavenly Father, to us your children the gift of faith demonstrated in works that we may follow the example of Joseph who overcame his fear and, by his quiet actions, provided for Mary and Jesus, your Son and our Savior who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Old Testament**

**Isaiah 43:5**

Do not be afraid, for I am with you.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle**

**Hebrews 10:31**

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Verse**.....sung to: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

### **The Gospel**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Object Lesson**

## Hymn of the Day

### 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

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|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | O little town of Bethlehem,<br>How still we see thee lie!<br>Above thy deep and dreamless sleep<br>The silent stars go by;<br>Yet in thy dark streets shineth<br>The everlasting light.<br>The hopes and fears of all the years<br>Are met in thee tonight.  | 3 | How silently, how silently<br>The wondrous gift is giv'n!<br>So God imparts to human hearts<br>The blessings of His heav'n.<br>No ear may hear His coming;<br>But in this world of sin,<br>Where meek souls will receive Him, still<br>The dear Christ enters in. |
| 2 | For Christ is born of Mary,<br>And, gathered all above<br>While mortals sleep, the angels keep<br>Their watch of wond'ring love.<br>O morning stars, together<br>Proclaim the holy birth,<br>And praises sing to God the king<br>And peace to all the earth! | 4 | O holy Child of Bethlehem,<br>Descend to us, we pray;<br>Cast out our sin, and enter in,<br>Be born in us today.<br>We hear the Christmas angels<br>The great glad tidings tell;<br>O come to us, abide with us,<br>Our Lord Immanuel!                            |

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## Sermon

### The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Prayers** *[If you need information to send a card or call to someone for whom we prayed, please contact Pastor John.]*

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus  
**And for all people according to their needs.**

*After each portion of the prayer:*

Lord in Your mercy.  
**Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**Our offerings help to support:**

Child Rescue Orphanage (Cambodia)

**Offertory**.....sung to: *What Child is This* vs 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

**Preface**.....sung to: *O Come, All You Faithful*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with you, His servant.**

Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

**With hearts uplifted**  
**Thanks to Him we render:**  
**With joy we come before Him,**  
**In gratefulness implore Him,**  
**With thankful hearts adore Him evermore!**

Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of Your appearing, manifest when the time had fully come and You sent Jesus, Your Son. Having seen His glory, we now wait for the day of consummation when He will come again as King. And so, with the church on earth and all the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sanctus**.....sung to: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heaven and earth cannot contain All the glory of Your name!  
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh  
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:  
Hail, hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to You!

Through Jesus Christ, your beloved we give you thanks, heavenly Father for the love with which you loved the world, for the salvation you prepared for us through Jesus Christ, for the Holy Spirit sent into our hearts and into our midst, that we may receive and share our living Lord with living faith.

**Amen.**

**Jesus' Directions for Communion**

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Agnus Dei**.....sung to: *From Heaven Above*

O Lamb of God, You take away The sin of all; now hear us pray.  
And grant us from our sins release: Have mercy on us.  
Grant us peace!

**Distribution of Communion**

*[If your body does not tolerate alcohol, the back row of the individual cups are grape juice.]*

**The Distribution Hymns**

### 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Let the earth now praise the Lord,<br>Who has truly kept His word<br>And at last to us did send<br>Christ, the sinner's help and friend.     | 4 | As Your coming was in peace,<br>Quiet, full of gentleness,<br>Let the same mind dwell in me<br>Which is Yours eternally.                        |
| 2 | What the fathers most desired,<br>What the prophets' heart inspired,<br>What they longed for many_a year,<br>Stands fulfilled in glory here. | 5 | Bruise for me the serpent's head<br>That, set free from doubt and dread,<br>I may cling to You in faith,<br>Safely kept through life and death. |
| 3 | Abram's promised great reward,<br>Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—<br>Him of twofold race behold—<br>Truly came, as long foretold.               | 6 | Then when You will come again<br>As the glorious king to reign,<br>I with joy will see Your face,<br>Freely ransomed by Your grace.             |

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### 641 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

- |     |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|
| ref | You satisfy the hungry heart<br>With gift of finest wheat.<br>Come give to us, O saving Lord,<br>The bread of life to eat.                      | 3 | Is not the cup we bless and share<br>The blood of Christ outpoured?<br>Do not one cup, one loaf, declare<br>Our oneness in the Lord? Refrain    |
| 1   | As when the shepherd calls his sheep,<br>They know and heed his voice;<br>So when You call Your fam'ly, Lord,<br>We follow and rejoice. Refrain | 4 | The myst'ry of Your presence, Lord,<br>No mortal tongue can tell:<br>Whom all the world cannot contain<br>Comes in our hearts to dwell. Refrain |
| 2   | With joyful lips we sing to You<br>Our praise and gratitude<br>That You should count us worthy, Lord,<br>To share this heav'nly food. Refrain   | 5 | You give Yourself to us, O Lord;<br>Then selfless let us be,<br>To serve each other in Your name<br>In truth and charity. Refrain               |

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The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the faith to life everlasting. Go in peace.

**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving & Nunc Dimitis**.....sung to: *From Heaven Above*

Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure And steadfast love fore'er endure!

Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, And we have tasted of His word.

As His own servants we depart With His salvation in our heart.

His saving power He has made known; His love through all the earth is shown.

Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this good gift and we ask that, by your mercy, you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in a fervent love for one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Benediction**.....sung to: *O Come, All You Faithful*

The Lord bless and keep you,

Look with love upon you,

Be gracious, and cause His face to shine with peace!

**Glory to Father, Son and Holy Spirit!  
The Savior close beside us,  
God's love from harm to hide us,  
The Spirit's power to guide us evermore!**

**The Final Hymn**

**392 God Loves Me Dearly**

1 God loves me dearly,  
Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me. Refrain

ref Therefore I'll say again:  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.

5 Now I will praise You,  
O Love Eternal;  
Now I will praise You  
All my life long. Refrain

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## Server Schedule

	12/15	12/22	12/24	12/25	12/29
	8:30	8:30	4:00	10:00	8:30
Elder	Bill	Dan	Herold	Herold	Erik
Reader	Nanette	Dianna	Pastor	Pastor	Karen
PowerPoint	Greg	Shirley	Gordon	Dan	Wanda
Organ	Linda	Linda	Linda	Linda	Linda
Audio	Steve	Steve	Edwin	Lisa	Steve
Visuals	Amy	Edwin	Greg	Amy	Preston
	10:30	10:30	7:00		10:30
Elder	Mike	Greg	Herold		Edwin
Reader	Cole	Rosemary	Pastor		Kathy
PowerPoint	Vicki	Erik	Lisa		Vicki
Audio/Visuals	Erik/Conor	Hayden/Donovan	Steve/Preston		Mike/Conor
Counters	John Di/Wayne	John Da/James	N/A	N/A	Adria/Michelle
	Both	Both		Both	Both
Altar Guild	Williams/Koob	Nancy D	Dan/Amy	Dan/Amy	Monika/Inge
Altar Flowers	Bianco	Reitz	Reitz	Reitz	Boehr

Altar flowers this week are donated by Mike and Karen Bianco in gratitude for the blessings of their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary.

## Birthdays this Week

12/16	George McCracken
12/17	Diana Prosser
12/18	Tyler Falkinburg
12/19	Matthew Sorenson
12/21	Dennis Lutz

## Anniversaries this Week

12/19	Karen and Mike Bianco
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