

December 29, 2024

Welcome

The Hymn of Invocation

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain
- ref Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.
- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain
- 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. Refrain

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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

O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only begotten Son, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence ponder this gift of grace and treasure it all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament

Joshua 4:5-7 (excerpts)

Each of you is to take up a stone...to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, "What do these stones mean?" tell them...

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Titus 3:4-8

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...so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.

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

Luke 2:1-19

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great

joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Object Lesson

Hymn of the Day

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

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|---|---|---|---|
| 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! |

Text: Public domain

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:

COS Youth

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

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

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| 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing: | 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free. |
| 2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth. | 4 "He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share. |
| 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son. | |

Text: Public domain

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

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| 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 giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in. |
| 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth! | 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel! |

Text: Public domain

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

Amen.

Thanksgiving & Nunc Dimittis.....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

387 Joy to the World

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| 1 | Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing. | 3 | No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found. |
| 2 | Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | 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 wonders, wonders of His love. |

Text: Public domain

Server Schedule

	12/29	1/5	1/12
	8:30	8:30	8:30
Elder	Erik	Mike	Gordon
Reader	Karen	Nanette	Amy
PowerPoint	Wanda	Amy	Dan
Organ	Linda	Linda	Linda
Audio	Steve	Steve	Steve
Visuals	Preston	Greg	Preston
	10:30	10:30	10:30
Elder	Edwin	Herold	Bill
Reader	Kathy	Delka	Cole
PowerPoint	Vicki	Cole	Erik
Audio/Visuals	Mike/Conor	Hayden/Donovan	Conor/Edwin
Counters	Adria/Michelle	John Di/Wayne	John Da/James
	Both	Both	Both
Altar Guild	Monika/Inge	Nancy D	Ron/Barb
Altar Flowers	Boehr	Mueffelman	Bergs

Altar flowers this week are given by Paula and Royce Boehrs, in gratitude for and celebration of their 50 years of marriage on December 28th. They thank God for the blessings of their years together, their children and their grandchildren.

Birthdays this Week

12/30 Cindy Krafft
12/31 Jean Hogness
12/31 Abigail Dart
01/02 Linda Meixel

Anniversaries this Week

None on record