

Christmas Day

December 25, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Please note: This worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

It's Christmas morning, a day of celebration. It's Christmas, a time of joy. How God's people love to sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!" Isaiah says that there is joy for God's people for the Savior has come and He has brought His reward with Him. That reward is forgiveness, holiness and a right standing before God the Father for everyone who believes in this Infant who came to buy us back from sin and Satan with His own blood. Our prayer today is that His name will be raised up as a banner for all the nations.

PRELUDE

Variations on "Once in Royal David's City"

WELCOME AND EXCHANGE OF PEACE

It is important to recognize that some people are especially susceptible to viruses that can be spread by contact and that some immune systems are very sensitive. Please understand that some may choose not to shake hands during the Exchange of Peace, but might simply greet you with a verbal greeting, a wave, or a smile.

OPENING HYMN

376 Once in Royal David's City

INVOCATION

(John 1:14; Psalm 96:3; Psalm 98:1)

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

People: **and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Pastor: Declare His glory among the nations,

People: **His marvelous works among all the peoples!**

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

People: **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Joined in worship on this holy day, let us make confession to our heavenly Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Pastor: Almighty Father,

People: **we confess that we are sinners by nature and by thought, word, and deed. We have not always given You the best of what we have and are, and have not fully made room for You in our lives. With repentant hearts, we turn to You for mercy, seeking Your grace. In Your loving kindness forgive, restore, and lead us so that we may be renewed and live to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: With joy I announce God's Good News to you. Our gracious God in His mercy has given His Son to be born, to live, and then to die for you and to rise again in glory. For His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be at peace and rejoice in the Lord.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

373 See Amid the Winter's Snow

1 See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years. (Refrain)

Refrain Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

3 Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this! (Refrain)

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Gracious God, we celebrate this day of our Lord's birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. We welcome You, Jesus, as the Savior of the world and the Lord of our hearts, who now lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.**

✕ WORD ✕

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

(The Lord's coming salvation)

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" ⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

388 Go Tell it on the Mountain

(God has spoken to us by His Son)

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father?" Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?" ⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

1 *Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.*

2 *Oh, that birth forever blessèd,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.*

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- 3 *This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.*
- 4 *O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.*
- 5 *Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.*

Text: Public domain

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

(The Word became flesh and dwelt among us)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

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⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please stand

NICENE CREED

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.

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.

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Pastor: Joyfully we come to You in worship this holy day, Lord God, for You have sent to us Your Son and through Him You have saved us.

People: **Glory be to You, O God!**

Pastor: We stand in awe before the wonder of Jesus' humble birth and declare our gratitude that You have invited us to receive Your love.

People: **Help us to see in Him our true hope, Lord God.**

Pastor: Inspire us through the faithful response to Your love of those who came to the manger that first Christmas to behold their Savior.

People: May we turn from life's cares to worship and adore Him!

Pastor: Help us, O God, to find in Jesus' birth our motivation to live a new life, and to share that newness of life with all those around us.

People: Send us forth to love and serve and care for all those whom our lives touch.

Pastor: Renew in us a willingness to show forth the power of Your presence in our world. Make us Your witnesses to all people. Use our voices to proclaim that Jesus has come!

People: In our words, our thoughts, and our deeds, may Christ be alive.

Pastor: Glory to You in the highest, Lord God, Heavenly Father!

People: And on earth, bring peace among all people!

Pastor: This we pray through the Prince of Peace, Your Son, our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

ANTHEM

"The Lamb of Christmas"

Ken Bible

"Come," said the lamb to the Holy Child.

"Come share my straw and rest awhile.

Come, Jesus, gentle, soft, and mild,

For You are the Lamb of Christmas."

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*“Come,” said the song from the midnight sky.
“We’ll sing throughout the world tonight,
‘All glory and praise to God on high!’
For You are the Song of Christmas.”*

*“Come,” said the star so dazzling bright.
“We’ll shine out peace and love and light.
We’ll shine, and joy will fill the night,
For You are the Star of Christmas.”*

*Wise men brought gifts and gathered round.
They bowed their heads without a sound
And worshiped God Himself come down —
Jesus, the Gift of Christmas.*

*“Come,” is the call of the Holy Child.
“Come share My straw and rest awhile.
You’ll find Me gentle, soft, and mild,
For I am the Lamb of Christmas.”*

✘ SACRAMENT ✘

In the Lord’s Supper we receive Christ’s body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord’s Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord’s command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God’s help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for by His incarnation He has embraced all of humanity and filled the world with good news and great joy. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n 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!**

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the Disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI (tune: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

**O Lamb of God, You take away The whole world's sin, now hear us pray.
Have mercy on Your people, Lord, and grant Your peace, Incarnate Word!
O Lamb of God, Emmanuel, Your grace and mercy with us dwell.**

If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle.

When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed.


Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have a sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION


The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star Shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star Three .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north-west, O'er . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where .
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; And to the . .
 Wise . Men came . . from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; And there it . .



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, And . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay Right . . o - ver the



Refrain
 night . that was . . so deep.
 tin - ued both day . . and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 star . wher - ev - er it went.
 place . where Je - sus lay.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.



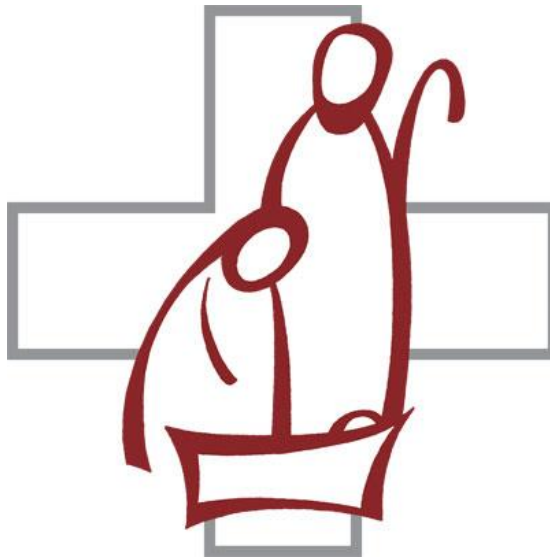
5 Then entered in those Wise Men three, And offered there in his presence
 Full rev'rently upon their knee, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

- 1** Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undeiled, 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 Undeiled 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!

Public domain



Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O Lord, You came to us a child, laid in a manger so long ago.

People: **Today You have come to us as bread and wine, body and blood.**

Pastor: Fill us with the joy of Your presence.

People: **And lead us to shine Your light in every dark corner of this earth.**

Pastor: We pray in the precious name of Jesus, our newborn King.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

387 Joy to the World

POSTLUDE

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Clifford Bischoff
Liturgist:	Theodore Laesch
Acolyte:	Jonah Meyer
Choir:	Choral Singers
Organist:	Ryan Meyer
Instrumentalists:	Jake Laesch, euphonium Nate Laesch, trumpet Ted Laesch, trumpet Zeke Laesch, horn