



The Lord's Day | December 8, 2024  
Worship Christ | Build Community | Love Cary

**Preparation**

**Prelude**

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 135:1-3

**All: Praise the Lord!**

**Leader:** Praise the name of the Lord, give praise, O servants of the Lord, who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God!

**All: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!**

**Prayer of Adoration**

**Hymn of Adoration**

***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Hymn 196

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;  
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;  
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Advent Reading**

Luke 2:41-52

**Reader:** Now [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the

temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

### **Advent Hymn**

### ***To Us a Child Of Hope Is Born***

To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is giv'n,  
him shall the tribes of earth obey, him all the hosts of heav'n.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, forevermore adored,  
the Wonderful, the Counselor, the great and mighty Lord.

His pow'r, increasing, still shall spread, his reign no end shall know;  
justice shall guard his throne above, and peace abound below.

To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is giv'n,  
the Wonderful, the Counselor, the mighty Lord of heav'n.

### **Confession of Sin**

adapted from *Prone to Wander*, p. 170

**All: God of all grace, we are weak and forgetful people, easily distracted by the joys and sorrows of our lives. We are capable of great thoughts concerning you one moment, yet we forget your kindness and live as though we had no hope the next. Forgive us, Father for the unbelief that clings to our sinful flesh and clouds our minds with doubt and fear. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

### **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Romans 4:25-5:2

**Leader:** Jesus was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

### **Welcome & Church Life**

### **Pastoral & Offering Prayer**

Pastor Ken Langley

### **Offertory Song**

### ***How Low Was Our Redeemer Brought***

How low was our Redeemer brought, the King who held the stars  
lay helpless in a maiden's arms and pressed against her heart.  
While sheep and cattle raised their voice, the babe could speak no words.  
The ever flowing Spring of Joy had come to share our thirst.

How low was our Redeemer brought, the Lord the worlds obeyed  
would stumble as he learned to walk upon the ground he'd made.  
The One the angels bowed before would kneel to wash our feet,  
and be at home among the poor, though he owned everything.

*Chorus*      Gloria, gloria in the highest.  
                  Gloria, gloria in the highest.

How low was our Redeemer brought to raise us from our shame.  
And now the highest praise of all belongs to Jesus' name  
The Healer wounded on a tree to bear our grief and sin.  
The King gave up his crown so we could ever reign with him. *Chorus*

### **Hymn of Thanksgiving**

*Doxology* (To the Tune of The First Noel)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
praise him all creatures here below,  
praise him above ye heav'nly host:  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

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

### **Enduring Peace**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 9:1-7, pew Bible p. 573

<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## Sermon

“Wonderful Counselor”

Rev. Chris Florence

## Song of Rejoicing

### ***Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery***

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.  
He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come!  
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, he the perfect Son of Man.  
In his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.  
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life.  
But no grave could e'er restrain him; praise the Lord; he is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power, resurrected as we will be when he comes.

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Christ in power, resurrected as we will be when he comes.

## Benediction

All Bible quotations are ESV, unless otherwise noted. Hymn numbers are from the Trinity Hymnal 1990.  
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***Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery***—Words & Music by Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Michael Bleecker;  
2015 Grace Immanuel Bible Church/Love Your Enemies Publishing

***To Us a Child of Hope is Born*** - Music: WINCHESTER OLD (Trinity Hymnal 222) Lyrics: John Morrison, 1782 (Trinity Hymnal 233)

***How Low Was Our Redeemer Brought***—Music and words by Matt Boswell, Bob Kauflin, Nathan Stiff, and David Zimmer:

2020 Sovereign Grace Worship/ASCAP, Sovereign Grace Praise/BMI; Sovereign Grace

### Teaching Elders

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