

July 25, 2021

* = All who are able please stand.

boldface = congregation participates

11:15 am

Before service speak silently to the Lord, during the service let the Lord speak powerfully to you.

Service for the Worship of God



Our Mission is to be a community of disciples with a heart for God and hands to help others.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Emmanuel, you came to us at Christmas, but remind us we can celebrate that you are with us all the time. Bless us now with a spirit of Christmas joy that enlivens us to meet your spirit in this time of worship. Amen.

PRELUDE : *Ave Maria* by Arcadelt

Angels From The Realms of Glory (Trad.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering in the Lord's Presence

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

People: And peace to all on earth!

Leader: Emmanuel, God is with us, not just once a year on Christmas, but every moment, every day!

People: As we worship Jesus Christ, no matter the season, may we hold in our hearts hope, peace, joy, and love.

Leader: May the playful spirit of God encourage us to live into this amazing story and celebration today, and all days!

People: Alleluia... Merry Christmas!

*HYMN #133 (verses 1, 3) *O Come, All ye Faithful*

1 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! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

3 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, you sent Jesus to show us how to live with hope, peace, joy and love... but not just at Christmas. Forgive us for all the years and months we have forgotten the Christmas spirit during the rest of the year, when we have been more like Scrooge and less like Mary who held your glory dearly in her heart. Even if celebrating Christmas in the middle of summer seems a little silly, set our hearts anew so we may proclaim with our words and actions the promise of your love. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God is with us! The gift of the love is in the stable and the doors are open!

People: Praise be to God! We are forgiven. Alleluia, Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE #110 (verse 1, 3) *Love Has Come

1 Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; Hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

3 Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Hearing the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 1-5

²In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

ANTHEM: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* traditional arr. Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir w/Matt Wifler

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:6-7

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN #115 *Away in a Manger

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

HYMN #119 (verses 1, 3) *Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

ANTHEM: *Carol of the Bells*

Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE: John 1:1-5, 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

RESPONSE:

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY: *Christmas in July*

Responding to the Word

***HYMN #136** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

1 Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

2 Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

3 Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

OFFERING

Deacons Offering received: On the third Sunday of every month we receive an additional offering used exclusively for acts of compassion within our church and local community.

***SUNG PRAYER OF DEDICATION #151 (vs 1, 5)** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

1 We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

5 Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice: Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Going Forth to Serve

*HYMN #122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

1 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.

2 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!"

3 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.

4 Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy
light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our
King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is
born.

*BLESSING

*RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION #134 *Joy to the World* (Verse 1, 4)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
ceive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature
sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and
makes the nations prove the glories of his righteous-
ness And wonders of his love, and wonders of his
love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

arr. Dale Wood

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Lauren Cochran, Pastor

Dylan Rehm, Chancel Choir and Bell Choir Director

Darlene Richards, Organ

Matt Parker Wrzeszcz, Associate Pastor

Brass: Will Bryk, Trumpet

Tom Cassel, Trumpet

Eddie Ryan, Trombone

Gracie Stumpf, Trombone

Matt Wifler, Soprano Sax