

10am Sunday Morning Service

22 December 2024 - Seven Lessons and Carols

Welcome (Sue lead, Wayne and choir music)

Call to Worship

Glory to God in the highest!

And hope to every discouraged heart.

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to every conflicted soul.

Glory to God in the highest!

And joy to every downcast spirit.

Glory to God in the highest!

And love to everyone. Let us sing praises to our God.

Let us offer this light against the darkness.

Song: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight over all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth!

**Come and worship Christ the new-born King;
come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King.**

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing:
yonder shines the infant light!

Wise men, leave your contemplations!
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen His natal star:

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in His temple shall appear:

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Advent Wreath: Love (Liz and Gabriel)

Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath — the candles of **HOPE, PEACE, and JOY**. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of **LOVE**. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

In the Book of Deuteronomy 10:17-19, we find these words:

“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

How great is the love the Father has showered on us! This is how God showed His love: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.

Let us pray:

Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ’s footsteps so that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Saviour. Amen.

Bible Reading: Isaiah 9.2-7

The Light has Shone – Jacky R

Song: The Stars dance in Heaven
The stars dance in heaven
They shine through the night
To show us God's grace and God's glory
But one star shines brightest
For he is the light
And he is the real Christmas story

God designed the stars to shine
The heavenly hosts adore him
For he is loving, fair and kind
And no other God stands before him

Jesus came to give us light
So we could all behold him
Salvation, joy, eternal life
Are gifts for which we now adore him

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Pray for the children (Sue)

Bible Reading: Isaiah 11.1-9 The Branch from the Root of Jesse - Pat

Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

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Bible Reading: Luke 1.26-38 The Annunciation – Robyn R

Song: Once in Royal David's City

Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable
And his cradle was a stall
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable;
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

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Bible Reading: Luke 2.1-7 The Birth of Jesus – Ingrid

Song: From the Squalor

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Saviour of the human race.
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the Gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
Humble servant in the Father's hands,
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
Filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again –
I will follow my Immanuel.

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me,

Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
And with a shout our souls are free –
Death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He's standing in the place of honour,
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,
Interceding for His own beloved
Till His Father calls to bring them home!
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,
Giving glory to Immanuel!

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Bible Reading: Luke 2.8-20 Shepherds go to the manger - Zac

Song: O Holy Night

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night divine O night, O night divine

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here came the wise men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our Friend
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend

Behold your King, before Him lowly bend

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name
Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever
His power and glory, evermore proclaim
His power and glory, evermore proclaim

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Reflection (Sue)

Bible reading: Matthew 2.1-12 Kings from the East - Colin

Offering Song: Silent night

Silent night, holy night: All is calm, all is bright
Round the virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night: Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, 'alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night: Wondrous star, lend your light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ our Saviour is born, Christ our Saviour is born.

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Thanksgiving for the Offering

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

Bible Reading: John 1.1-14 The Pre-Eminent Word - Christine

Confession

**Merciful God our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:**

we have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Declaration of Forgiveness

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:

pardon you and set you free from all your sins,

strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for our Church and the World (Christine)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven,

hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread, forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
Are yours now and forever. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (Sue with Julia and Christine)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, ever living God.

We give thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of the Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

In your Word made flesh

You have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,

we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
After Supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming
again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy
of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body.

For we all share in the one bread.

Prayer

God of heaven, dwelling among us,
we thank you for feeding us
with this holy food.

By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh
that as his body in the world
we may bring your presence
to all people.

Father,

**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Notices

Joy to the world!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive 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.

Joy to the world! the saviour 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.

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.

Blessing

By the tender mercy of our God
love has broken upon us!

Light is given where once there was darkness
and hope where there was only death.

We go into this season knowing
that God will guide our feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**