



Sunday, December 25, 2023
Christmas Day

Service Theme
GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY - GOD BECAME MAN

How can an omnipresent God be held in his mother's arms? How can an all-powerful God be too weak to walk? This is the mystery of the incarnation—that God took on human flesh. We cannot understand how it can be so. But the Spirit enables us to grasp that this incomprehensible truth is very good news. This is the Savior we need! As true man, he was born under God's law, under all the commandments that we have broken. Where we have failed, Jesus was perfect. As true God, when he laid down his perfect life, it was a sacrifice valuable enough to pay for the sins of the world, so that we might be adopted as God's children. Christmas Day fills us with wonder—that the Creator God could become flesh and dwell among us and that, in his great love for us, he would do such a thing. Let us marvel at this good news of great joy!

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

M: This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. *(Psalm 118:24)*

C: **Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!** *(2 Corinthians 9:15)*

Hymn

CW 55 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Order of Service: Morning Praise

(Page 45 after "Morning Hymn")



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



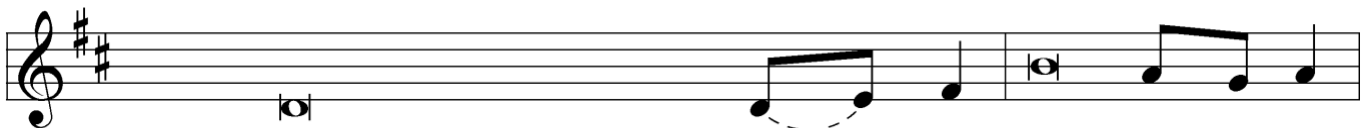
C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



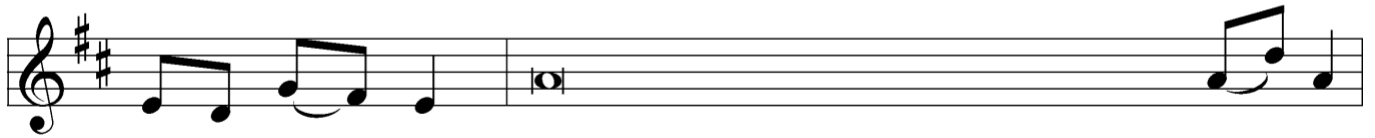
C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



M: (Christmas) Unto us the _____ Christ is born: let us wor - ship him. |



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



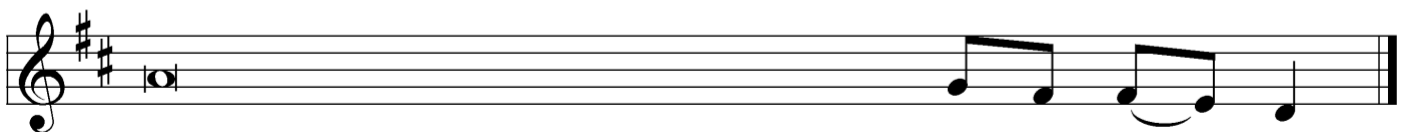
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

1st Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a (EHV)

Bethlehem was a little town. Yet, it will be known throughout history as the birthplace of the God-man.

²But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

³Therefore the LORD will give them up,

until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.

Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

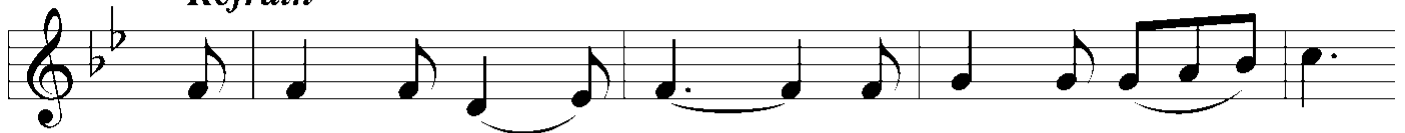
⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵This one will be their peace.

Psalm 98

Refrain



The Word be - came flesh and lived a - mong us.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Psalm Tone



Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Psalm Prayer

M: Lord Jesus, by your gracious coming into the world, you destroyed death and made all things new. Grant that we may never tire of proclaiming your salvation to the ends of the earth; for you live and reign with the father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Epistle Lesson Galatians 4:4-7 (EHV)

The Son of God was born of a woman so that he might redeem us and make us heirs of the heavenly Father.

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

44 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Break forth, O beau-teous heav'n-ly light, And ush - er in the
morn - ing. You shep - herds, shrink not with af - fright But
hear the an - gel's warn - ing. This child, now weak in
in - fan - cy, Our con - fi - dence and joy shall be, The
pow'r of Sa - tan break - ing, Our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.

Gospel
John 1:1-18 (EHV)

The mystery of the incarnation—God became man; the Word became flesh.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.' " ¹⁶For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

Response for Christmas/Epiphany

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn

CW 67 What Child Is This

**What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

**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!**

Sermon Text & Theme

Micah 5:2-5a ... Good things do come in small packages!

- 1) From a small town comes a great Ruler
- 2) From a mortal woman comes the eternal God
- 3) From Shepherding will flow majesty and greatness

Hymn

CW 45 Oh, Rejoice, All Christians Loudly

**Oh, rejoice, all Christians, loudly,
For our joys have now begun; Wondrous things our God has done.
Tell abroad his goodness proudly,
Who our race has honored so, That he lives with us below.
Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness, Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of grace is shining!**

**See, my soul, your Savior chooses Poverty and weakness, too;
In such love he comes to you.
Neither crib nor cross refuses, All he suffers for your good
To redeem you by his blood.
Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness, Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of grace is shining!**

**Lord, how shall I thank you rightly? I am saved eternally
 By your life and death for me.
 Let me not regard you lightly But on you in faith depend,
 Praising you, my heav'nly friend.
 Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness, Christ has done away with sadness!
 Hence all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of grace is shining!**

**Jesus, guard and guide your members; Make us children of your
 grace;
 Hear our prayers in ev'ry place.
 Fan to life faith's glowing embers; Give all Christians far and near
 Holy peace, a glad new year.
 Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness, Christ has done away with sadness!
 Hence all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of grace is shining!**

A Prayer for Christmas Day

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.



M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



C: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for Grace

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

Hymn

CW 34 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

**Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**

**Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!**

**Now through his Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reigned Through sin and vanity;
He for us obtained Eternal joy on high.
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing With all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

Acknowledgements & Announcements

“Thank You”

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make the Christmas season special this year: those who helped prepare and participate in the parade, those who kept our church clean, our walkways cleared, and facilities in good repair, those who used their artistic talents to beautify the sights and sounds of our worship, those involved in our online outreach, those who encouraged, supported, and prayed for our congregation’s ministry, and anyone else who contributed to our Christian mission in unseen and unsung ways: I thank God for you and the blessings he has worked through you.

Church Cleaners:

December 31 - Luke // January 7 - Timothy

DIVINE WORD’S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Mo (25)	11:00 am	Christmas Day Service
Su (31)	10:30 am	Worship
We (3)	6:30 pm	“Test the Spirits” Bible Information Class.
Th (4)	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Devotion at Longfield Manor Youth Confirmation (W)
Su (7)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Sunday School & Confirmation Worship & Communion First Fellowship



Divine Word

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