

Worship Service
Sunday December 25, 2016
Christmas Day
Theme: “Joyful Celebration of Christ’s Birth ”

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Gathering Song: “**Angels from the realms of glory**” Bop #146

Welcome and Sharing of the peace
(We greet each other saying, “**The Peace of Christ be with you**”)

Call to Worship:

Pastor 1: The Prophet Isaiah said:
The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
On them light has shined.

All: People: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Voice 1: The Priest Zechariah said before John's birth:
By the tender mercy of our God,
The dawn from on high will break upon us,
To give light to those who sit in darkness,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

All People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Voice 2: The Evangelist John said:
What has come into being in him was life
And the life is the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
And the darkness did not overcome it.

**All: God is with us
God is coming into our lives in a new way
The birth of the Christ-child is the renewal of hope
A reminder that the Lord reigns
let the earth be glad, Let us rejoice in worship.**

Hymn: **“O Holy Night”**

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior'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 O holy night
O night divine

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

CCLI Song # 32015

Adolphe Charles Adam | John Sullivan Dwight | Placide Cappeau

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WE LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Prayer of Adoration:

Holy and loving God,

you stir in the night and bring about joy in the morning,
you stir in our hearts and bring joy to our lives,
you stir in our minds and bring wisdom.
You came as the Christ child, born a baby in a cattle stall,
so that we might have true, full and everlasting life.
We come to sing praises with the angels
We come to bow with the shepherds
We come to kneel in wonder with the wise men
We come to adore you with Joseph
We come to ponder your mystery with Mary
We come to you today, because you first came to us.
We come to love you because you first loved us.
We come to serve you, because you first served us.
We come like the shepherds to adore you.
We come to praise you as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen

The Christmas Litany

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For he hath visited and redeemed His people
The Dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in
darkness,
And to guide our feet into the way of peace
For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given.

Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
Let earth received her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room'
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing'
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, Repeat the sounding joy,

Reader 1:

In the beginning was the word;
And the word was with God, and the Word was God

All things were made by Him;
And without Him was not any thing made that was made:

In Him was life;
And the life was the light of men.

He was in the world, and the world was made by Him
And the world knew Him not

He came unto His own,
And they that were his own received Him not

But as many as received Him,
To them gave He the right to become children of God.

The word became flesh and dwelt among us.
And we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth

Reader 2:

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift.

God sent not His Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through Him.

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift.

When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift.

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, Christ the lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
In the highest.'
O come, let us adore him, Christ the lord.

Yea, Lord we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus to thee be glory given,
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the lord.

Youth message: **"The Greatest Gift"**

Youth Hymn: **"Light of the stable"**

Hail, hail to the newborn King
Let our voices sing Him our praises
Hail, hail to the guiding Light
That brought us tonight to our Savior

Halle, hallelujah (x4)

Come now, let it shine so bright
To the knowing Light of the stable
Kneel close to the Child so dear
Cast aside your fear and be thankful

Hail, hail to the newborn King
Let our voices sing Him our praises
Hail, hail to the guiding Light

That brought us tonight to our Savior

Chorus

GOD SPEAKS TO US FROM HIS WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

As we listen to the familiar story of your coming among us as a child of flesh and blood, open our minds and hearts so that we may hear the wondrous events with new understanding, with wisdom, and with joy. Amen.

The Reading of Scripture:

Psalm 96
St Luke 2: 8-14

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Solo: "As shepherds lately knelt"

Sermon: **"A Special Delivery"**

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Introduction:

As Christians, we always have an opportunity to share with individuals who are experience hardships, loss, brokenness, grief or sadness in their lives. When we have these moments, we should endeavor to exhibit a character of hope as we encourage others to find that hope that we have come to embrace. Christmas is always a time to renew and embrace hope, even though many at Christmas simply hope for gifts, parties and festivities. On this Christmas Day, hope springs eternal because the journey of the Magi to find Jesus was a great example of hope anchored in Christ.

1. GOD IS THE SOURCE OF OUR HOPE
The Magi were looking forward to the coming of

The new King that would reign in the lives of the Jews and be control Jerusalem the seat of power. God told them that this new King would come according to prophecy and so they were living watchfully while anticipating his coming.

2. JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THAT GODLY HOPE

When the Magi found the King, they were sure they had found Jesus so they paid homage to Jesus in a very fitting way.

Mt 2:9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Gold for His royalty. In the Scriptures gold was a symbol for royalty and also signified the glory and deity of God. It and was thus an appropriate gift to give to God the Son.

Frankincense for His deity. This was a sweet incense that was used in connection with some of the offerings in the Temple, it's aroma rising to God as a prayer. Myrrh for his humanity. Myrrh was an embalming ointment which would be wrapped in the garments of the deceased. It signified the fact that Jesus was born to die.

3. WE GAIN HOPE IF WE MAKE THE CHOICE TO FOLLOW JESUS

There are many things that the Lord hopes will happen in our lives as we worship him this Christmas.

A hope that we will find eternal life in Jesus.

A hope that we will allow God to guide us towards the new year where glorious possibilities await us.

John 3:16 reminds us: "***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

Evie Karlson sings:

Never was anyone like Him, never will one be the same

Tiny babe, an Infant King, Savior, we worship and honor the power of His name

Chorus:

He came special delivery, wrapped up in love, bound by a promise, sealed by a dove

And filled with the spirit, carried by grace, you knew where He was goin', by the look on His face

Verse:

Where He went, Love was there also, where He was , Love showed the way
Those who saw, knew He was holy, and I see what they saw to this very day

Hymn of Response: **“The First Nowell the Angels did say”** Bop #136

Prayers of God’s People, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer

WE BRING OUR GIFTS

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving

Sung Response: **“Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”** BoP#79

WE LEAVE WITH CHRIST’S PEACE

The Benediction

Recessional Hymn: **“See amid the winter’s snow”** Bop #168