

CHURCH OF THE CROSS



Christmas Eve
Children's Pageant
December 24, 2017

Our Vision

Connecting people to Christ and one another
through a community rooted in history
and relevant for today

Our Mission

To establish a welcoming community where people
Encounter Christ
Are Changed by Christ
Introduce Christ to others

Our Values

The eternal relevance of scripture.
The transforming nature of worship.
The power of connectedness.
The necessity of dependence on God.
The witness of generosity and hospitality.
The blessing of children.
The priority of a balanced life.

Welcome to Church of the Cross. We are glad you can join us this afternoon for our worship service.

Children are welcome to remain in the service with their parents for this morning's Christmas Eve Pageant. Nursery care is available upstairs for children under three, and for three-year olds as space allows. Please pick all children up from the nursery for communion after the sermon, during the singing of *The First Noel*. If you wish, activity bags are available for children in the gathering room outside of the sanctuary.

If you have questions about our regular Kids of the Cross activities, please visit our website, or speak to anyone you see involved in the service this afternoon.

We do celebrate communion in our services, and we invite all those who have been baptized and are committed to following Christ to join us, regardless of denomination. There are directions explaining how we partake of communion in the bulletin at that point in the service. If you are not receiving communion you can still come forward and receive a blessing, or remain seated and enjoy the music.

You are all invited to join us for our regular Sunday worship services (9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.). Each service includes worship music and singing, scripture readings, a sermon, prayers, and Communion. Regular children's programming and nursery care is available during both Sunday worship services. **Please note, though, that this coming Sunday, December 31, there will only be one service at 10 AM and children will worship with their families.**

"And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans--and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused--and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself."

Sigrid Undset

Good News of Great Joy

The Prophecy of Isaiah

Isaiah 11:1-9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(please stand)

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Verse 3

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

Verse 4

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Text: Latin, 12th C, composite

Tune: Processionale, 15th C; adapt Thomas
Helmore, 1854

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

Of the Father's Love Begotten

(please remain seated to sing)

Verse 1

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

Verse 2

O that birth for ever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

Text: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th C

Tr. John M. Neale 19th C

Tune: Plainsong, 13th C

The Arrival in Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-7

Once In Royal David's City

(please stand)

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

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 meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander
Music: Irby, melody Jerry John Gauntlett;
Harmony Arthur Henry Mann

The Shepherds

Isaiah 60:1-3; Luke 2:8-15

O Come All Ye Faithful

sung by the children

O Come All Ye Faithful

(please stand)

Verse 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

Verse 2

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God
All glory in the highest

Chorus

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Words: John Francis Wade
Tr. Frederick Oakeley and others
Music: Adeste fideles

O Come All Ye Faithful

(please remain seated to sing)

Verse 3

Yea, Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to thee be all glory given
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

Chorus

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Words: John Francis Wade
Tr. Frederick Oakeley and others
Music: Adeste fideles

Unto Us a Boy is Born

(please remain seated to sing)

Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation,
The Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he all folk surpasses,
That he all folk surpasses.

Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us,
Unto the joys above us.

Words: Puer nobis nascitur
Tr. Percy Dearmer

The Magi

Matthew 2:1-11

Carol of the Children

sung by the children

John Rutter

*One for the star in the sky over Bethlehem;
Two for the hands that will rock him to sleep;
Three for the kings bringing gold, bringing myrrh, bringing incense;
Four for the angels that watch over his bedside.*

*Blue for the robe of the sweet Virgin Mary;
White for the dawn of the first Christmas Day;
Red for the blood that he shed for us all on Good Friday;
Black for the tomb where he rested till Easter.*

*And one for the heart,
one for the heart,
one for the heart that I give as my offering to Jesus.*

Go Tell it on the Mountain

(please stand)

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

Verse 1

While Shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Verse 2

The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Traditional spiritual

Celebrant: For unto us a child is born.

People: **To us a son is given.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Homily

Rev. Christian Ruch

Offertory

The First Noel

Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields where they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Chorus

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

Verse 2

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n
And earth of naught,
And with His blood
Mankind hath bought

Traditional English Carol

The Holy Communion

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

9
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might _____

17
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. _____

25
Hea - ven and earth are full _____ full _____ of your glo - ry. Ho -

33
-san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

41
Bless - ed is he who comes _____ in the name of the Lord _____ Ho -

-san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Schubert

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for...

...Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

Celebrant and People:

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all...through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

Celebrant and People:

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

Celebrant: And now, as our savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say together,

Celebrant and People:

**Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

You will be dismissed by row to receive communion. As you come forward you will first be given a piece of bread, which you may eat upon receiving. Gluten-free wafers are available for those with diet restrictions. If you would prefer a wafer, please let the person serving bread know.

After eating the bread, you may receive either from the larger chalice, which has wine in it; or from the tray of smaller cups which are filled with grape juice.

What Child Is This

Verse 1

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

Chorus

This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

Verse 2

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christian fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading

Verse 3

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh
Come peasant king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him

Words: William C. Dix 19th C

Tune: Traditional English Melody, 16th C

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Verse 1

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!

Verse 2

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, heard the story-
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ, the Babe, was born for you!
Christ, the Babe, was born for you!

Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed | Wilbur Lee

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Music: 1958. Renewed 1986 Broadman Press

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Angels We Have Heard on High

Verse 1

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Chorus

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Verse 2

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song

Verse 3

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

Verse 4

See within a manger laid
Jesus Lord of heav'n and earth
Mary Joseph lend your aid
With us sing our Savior's birth

Edward Shippen Barnes | James Chadwick
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Candles

When lighting your candle, please tip the candle towards the flame and hold your lit candle upright when passing the flame to others. Please be sure to supervise young children with candles.

Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing

Verse 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 th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Chorus

Hark the herald-angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Verse 2

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail, th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Verse 3

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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.

Charles Wesley / Felix
Mendelssohn
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Silent Night

Verse 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

Verse 2

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Verse 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

Verse 4

Silent night holy night
Wondrous star lend thy light
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

Words: Josph Mohr 19th C
T. John F Young 19th C
Music: Franz Gruber 19th C

Celebrant and People:

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of all his gifts; and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

*Please extinguish your candle,
and wait for the wax to harden before laying it down.*

Joy to the World

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

Joy to the earth the Savior 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

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

Verse 4

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 and wonders of His love

George Frederic Handel / Isaac Watts
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Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Cast

Prophets - Kate Winters, Soren Jacobs, Toby Lang and Lottie Ruch

Narrators - Soren Jacobs, Megan Fritz, Clara Jacobs, Lottie Ruch, Toby Lang, Luke Hamer, Aviana Eiswald

Gabriel - Claire Fritz

Mary - Esperanza Ortega

Joseph - Mitchell Pickens

Innkeepers - Luke Hamer, Toby Lang, Aviana Eiswald

Shepherds - Marcello Ortega, Leif Jacobs, Lyndon Frosch, Joe Hamer, Liam Wiskus, Santiago Ortega

Sheep - John Frosch, Corin Berg, Grayson Wiskus, Mateo Ortega, Abraham Taylor

Angel of the Lord - Elena Carlson

Angels - Clara Jacobs, Megan Fritz, Charis Kaihoi, Melody Fritz, Elisabeth Clark, Maeve Taylor, Liv Keuning, Elsa Hill, Bria Kaihoi, Nora Pickens, Kate Winters, Margaret Winters

Star of the East - Juliet Carlson

Magi - Adriano Ortega, Jonas Kaihoi, Karl Fritz and Bennett Lang

Special Thanks To...

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