

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our service we gather before Jesus our Savior to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God’s holy and powerful word. Also,

- † Restrooms are down the hall and to the right from the back of church.
- † We love families! Your children are welcome in our service! Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus! If you would like, there are children’s bulletins with crayons in the back of church and a cry room in the back of the sanctuary.
- † Please fill out the Friendship Registers located at the end of each row.
- † If you want to review or share today’s service, you can find it on our website.
- † For upcoming events and activities, “like” us on our Facebook page.

Please come again and worship with us very soon!

TODAY’S THEME:

*A Light in the Darkness.* Light and darkness are polar opposites. Where one advances, the other must retreat. Thus, they parallel the ultimate of polar opposites—good and evil, holiness and sin. Ever since mankind fell into sin, God promised to send a great Light to pierce the darkness of sin and death.

Worship Participants

- Liturgist.....Pastor Brian Adams
- Preacher..... Pastor Jacob Hoff
- Senior Choir Director..... Dr. David Brightsman
- Flutist ..... Mrs. Nancy Willms

+ ORDER OF SERVICE +

HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry  
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and  
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to  
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and  
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the  
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the  
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far  
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 as, far as the curse is found.  
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

STAND

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**C: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the Heavens.**

M: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

**C: Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.**

M: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

**C: For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.**

M: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

**C: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

M: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

**C: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.**

M: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

**C: Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!**

HYMN

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -  
strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings  
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed



ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



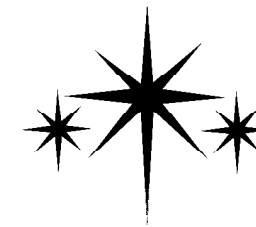
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

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.

## BE SEATED

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

*The "beautiful feet" of God's messengers are privileged to bring the good news of redemption, "the salvation of our God."*

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion,  
"Your God reigns!"

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;  
together they shout for joy.  
When the LORD returns to Zion,  
they will see it with their own eyes.

<sup>9</sup> Burst into songs of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD will lay bare his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see  
the salvation of our God.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 98

*Spoken responsively*

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.**

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.**

## SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

*The writer to the Hebrews describes the Christ-child: God himself made flesh for the purification of sins and the rule of righteousness.*

<sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the

right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,<sup>1</sup>  
"You are my Son; today I have become your Father"?

Or again,  
"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,  
"Let all God's angels worship him." <sup>7</sup>In speaking of the angels he says,  
"He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."

<sup>8</sup>But about the Son he says,  
"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever,  
and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.  
<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions  
by anointing you with the oil of joy."

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Galatians 4:4,5a

Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia.

## STAND

## GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

*From the Word at creation to the light-shining-in-darkness of Isaiah to the preparatory work of John the Baptizer, St. John points to Jesus as the glory of the Lord, full of grace and truth.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the

<sup>1</sup> Hebrews quotes a variety of Old Testament passages that point to Jesus as true God, worthy of worship; Psalm 2:7, 2 Samuel 7:14, Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 104:4, Psalm 45:6-7.

light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## BE SEATED



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed  
 3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,  
 5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,

Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is  
 When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the  
 Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the  
 An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -  
 And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and

Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the  
 Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior  
 Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their  
 min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our  
 chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing

end - ing he, Of the things that are, that  
 of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
 faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -  
 God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall  
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert  
 min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -

see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He**

**ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father**

**almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BE SEATED

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

M: Lord, we pray in your name and as you taught.

**C: 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.**

**BE SEATED**

#### SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

#### FOR JESUS CHRIST IS BORN

*by Lena J. McLin*

*Let the heav'ns and earth rejoice for Jesus Christ is born,  
There in lowly oxen stall this blessed Christmas morn.  
Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice for Jesus Christ is born.*

*Let the heav'ns and earth sing out their songs of joy and cheer.  
Peace on earth, good will to men throughout the coming year.  
Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice for Jesus Christ is born.*

**STAND**

#### PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### BLESSING

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

And the blessing of God Almighty — the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit — be upon you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

NOW SING WE, NOW REJOICE



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our  
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to  
 3 Now through his Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di -  
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly



voice; He from whom joy stream - eth Poor  
 thee. Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O  
 vine. Death o'er us had reign - ed Through  
 ground? Where the an - gels sing - ing With



in a man - ger lies; Not so bright - ly  
 pure and ho - ly Child; Through thy grace and  
 sin and van - i - ty; He for us ob -  
 all his saints u - nite, Sweet - est prais - es



beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
 mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.  
 bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 Draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!  
 May we praise him there! May we praise him there!  
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

