

Worshiping Our Savior, Who Found Us!

DECEMBER 24, 2020
5:30PM

PRELUDE *Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol* Gerald Near
Dennis Bergin, organ

WELCOME

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

ADVENT BELL TOLLING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - THE CHRIST CANDLE

David Barnes, Student Ministry Director; Greg Wagener, reader

Pastor: Tonight we light the fifth candle of Advent - The Christ Candle. While many opposed Jesus' interaction with "sinners," Matthew 9:10-13 records Jesus' own understanding of his purpose and ministry: "As Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Reader: Time and again Jesus explained not only how he seeks and saves that which was lost, but also how much the Father rejoices when one sinner is found. In Matthew 18:12 Jesus says, "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?" In Luke 15:8 he asks, "What woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?" And with the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus shows the joy of the Father in receiving sinners who turn to him in faith. Jesus says, in Luke 15:20-24: "[The prodigal] arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

OUR SAVIOR FOUND US! Rejoice! With Me

Sing! Jr.; Vickie Loveall & Wynn Akin, bells; Prudence, Heidi & Mary Barker, violins;
Heather Barker, viola; Laura Quinn, cello; Carrie Smith, piano

A shepherd tending his sheep one day saw that one had wandered away.
He found his sheep, oh, could it be that Jesus, like him, would look for me?

A woman having a very hard time searched her house for her lost dime.
She found her coin, oh, could it be that Jesus, like her, would look for me?

Rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice with me!
Hear Jesus say, hear Jesus say, rejoice, rejoice with me!

When Jesus tells a story, it is plain to see
That he will find us when we're lost and say, "Rejoice with me!"

A father's son had gone far away, so he watched the road each day.
He saw, he ran, oh, could it be that Jesus, like him, would look for me?

Rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice with me!
Hear Jesus say, hear Jesus say, rejoice, rejoice with me!
Rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice with me!
Rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice with me, rejoice!

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***GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** Matthew 1:18-21

David Barnes, Student Ministry Director

- Pastor: Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.
- People: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.
- Pastor: And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.
- People: But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,
- Pastor: "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- All: She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

*WE INVOKE HIS PRESENCE

*GOD AND SINNERS RECONCILED!

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Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

A great company of the heavenly host [was] praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13, 14

The musical score consists of four staves of music in common time and G major. The top staff uses a soprano C-clef, the second staff an alto F-clef, the third staff a bass G-clef, and the bottom staff a bass F-clef. The lyrics are divided into three parts:

1. Hark! the her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new- born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ- teous- ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new- born King."

Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; alt.

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D.ref.
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840
Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD TO HIS CHILDREN!

David Barnes, Student Ministry Director

A SON HAS BEEN GIVEN! *For Unto Us a Child Is Born* from Handel's "Messiah"

Sing! Jr.; Middle School/High School Ensemble; Prudence Barker, violin; Laura Quinn, cello;
Carrie Smith, piano

For unto us a child is born, unto us, a Son is given, unto us, a Son is given
 And the government shall be upon His shoulder:
 And His name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God,
 The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace
 The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

For unto us a child is born, unto us, a Son is given, unto us, a Son is given
 And the government shall be upon His shoulder:
 And His name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God,
 The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace
 The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

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SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-5

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

HE DESCENDED TO US! *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Duet: Lily Reynolds & Belle St. John

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

JOIN US NOW IN THIS SONG OF PRAISE! *Mary, Mary*

Sing! Jr. & Middle School/High School Ensemble;

Heather Barker & Greg Wagener, percussion

Mary rock your little baby. Oo, in the stable tonight.

Mary, rock your little baby. Rock your baby in the heavenly light.

Mary, Mary rock your little baby. Oo, in the stable tonight.

Mary, Mary rock your little baby. Rock your baby in the heavenly light.

Angels join in the lullaby as the star shines bright in the winter sky.

Shepherds travel from far and wide, just to kneel at the baby's side.

Mary rock your little baby. Oo, in the stable tonight.

Mary, rock your little baby. Rock your baby in the heavenly light.

Holy baby from heav'n above you have come to offer us peace and love.

Join we now in a song of praise, on this happiest day of days.

Mary, Mary rock your little baby. Oo, in the stable tonight.

Mary, Mary rock your little baby. Rock your baby in the heavenly light.

Rock, rock your baby tonight. O Mary, rock, rock your baby tonight.

Rock, rock your baby tonight. Rock your baby in the holy light.

Mary, Mary rock your little baby. Oo, in the stable tonight.

Mary, Mary rock your little baby. Rock your baby in the heavenly light.

I said, "Rock your baby in the heavenly

O Mary, rock your baby tonight!"

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SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-10

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

*HOW GREAT OUR JOY!

JESUS CHRIST:

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While by the Sheep We Watched at Night

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. Is. 12:3

The musical score consists of four staves of music in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The first staff contains the first four lines of the lyrics. The second staff begins with a forte dynamic (f) and is labeled "REFRAIN". The third staff begins with a piano dynamic (p) and is labeled "echo". The fourth staff begins with a forte dynamic (f) and is labeled "echo". The lyrics are as follows:

1. While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tid - ings brought an
 2. There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth - le - hem a
 3. There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall re -
 4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, that ev - er joy our

 an - gel bright.
 child to - day. How great our joy! Great our joy!
 deem us all.
 hearts shall fill.

 Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in

 heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

German carol
Trans. anon.

JUNGST. Irreg.
Traditional German melody
Arr. by Hugo Jungst, ca. 1890

SCRIPTURE READING! Luke 2:11-12

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

BE NEAR ME, LORD JESUS! *Away in a Manger*
Sing! Jr. & Middle School/High School Ensemble

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looking down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to Heaven to live with Thee there,
Forever in Thy care.

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SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:13-14

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

*WE SING, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

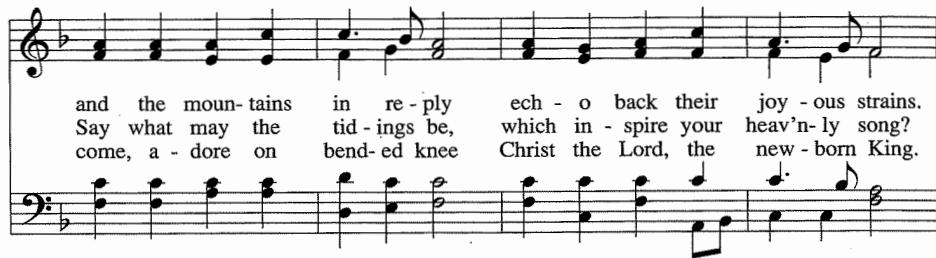
Angels We Have Heard on High

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Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.
Luke 2:14



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend-ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Traditional French carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7.ref.
Traditional French melody
Arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HARK! A VOICE FROM YONDER MANGER!

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All My Heart This Night Rejoices

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory.
John 1:14*

1. All my heart this night re- joic - es as I hear far and near
 2. Forth to - day the Con-qu’rор go - eth, who the foe, sin and woe,
 3. Shall we still dread God’s dis- plea - sure, who, to save, free - ly gave
 4. He be - comes the Lamb that tak - eth sin a-way and for aye
 5. Hark! a voice from yon - der man - ger, soft and sweet, doth en-treat:

sweet - est an - gel voic- es. “Christ is born,” their choirs are sing - ing
 death and hell, o'er - throw- eth. God is man, man to de - liv - er;
 • his most cher - ished Treas - ure? To re - deem us, he hath giv - en
 full a - tone-ment mak - eth. For our life his own he ten - ders;
 “Flee from woe and dan - ger. Breth - ren, from all ills that grieve you,

till the air ev - ’ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
 his dear Son now is one with our blood for - ev - er.
 • his own Son from the throne of his might in heav - en.
 and our race, by his grace, meet for glo - ry ren - ders.
 you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you.”

6. Come, then, banish all your sadness,
 one and all, great and small;
 come with songs of gladness.
 Love him who with love is glowing;
 hail the star, near and far
 light and joy bestowing.

7. Dearest Lord, thee will I cherish.
 Though my breath fail in death,
 yet I shall not perish,
 but with thee abide forever
 there on high, in that joy
 which can vanish never.

Paul Gerhardt, 1653
 Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

WARUM SOLLT' ICH MICH DENN GRAMEN 8.3.3.6.8.3.3.6
 Johann G. Ebeling, 1666

GOD REVEALS HIS WORD**SERMON SERIES****SCRIPTURE TEXT****SERMON TITLE**

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

“Our Savior Found Us”

Luke 19:1-10

Your Savior Is Seeking You!

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through.² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature.⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.”⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.”⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.”¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN! *Silent Night*****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.****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!****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.****Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;****With the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;****Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*****BENEDICTION*****POSTLUDE *Fugato-Toccata on “Noel Nouvelet”* Marcel Dupre**

Your Savior Is Seeking You!

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

Luke 19:1-10

*Congregation please rise

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