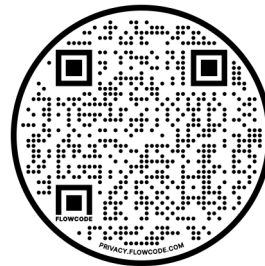




WELCOME

*We're glad you're here! Please join us on Sunday for worship at 9:30am and 11am.
If you would like more information about our church, please share your information with us and we
will get in touch in the new year. cccgainessville.com/connect-card*

**Thank you for joining us this Christmas Eve.
It is our hope that we may find rest in the stillness of the peace of Christ.
We join the host of heaven in proclaiming Messiah's birth!
Let us declare the good news of his coming. Noel!**



Pardon our mess! We are growing! Construction on our new sanctuary, lobby and offices has begun. We ask that everyone refrains from entering the construction area at the end of the hall. Please also be mindful of children. To learn more about Defining Moments, visit cccgainessville.com/defining-moments.

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2025

*(All music by permission CCLI #2054302) *Please silence your cell phones at this time.
Children all ages welcome in the service. Childcare for ages 5 and under is available.
Please grab a Children's activity bag at the Welcome Desk.*

Prelude

*The First Noel
Ring the Bells*

Call to Worship: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Leader: Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

O Come All Ye Faithful

Words & Music: John F. Wade, 1743; translated by Frederick Oakeley, 1841.

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;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
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, all glory in the highest!"

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The lighting of Advent candles depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. The candle lighting included an additional candle each Sunday in Advent.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall
be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744. Music: Roland H. Prichard, 1830.

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Words: Traditional French Carol. Music: Traditional French melody.

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

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

Refrain

See within a manger laid
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
sing with us our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ 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, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ 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.

What Child Is This

Words: William C. Dix, 1871. Music: Traditional English melody, 16th century.

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 ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here;
The silent Word is pleading.

*Nails, spear shall pierce Him through; The cross be borne 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 a song on high; The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born; The Babe, the Son of Mary*

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-14

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

*Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840;
Arr. William H. Cummings, 1855.*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

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

Refrain

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by, Born that men no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

Refrain

O Holy Night

Words: Placide Cappeau, 1847. Trans. by John S. Dwight. Music: Adolphe Adam, 1874.

O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining,
'Til 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 divine!
O 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 pow'r, And glory
evermore proclaim!
Noel, Noel,
O night, O night divine!
Noel, Noel,
O night, O night divine!

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-5, 9-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Homily

Tim Hayse

Passing the Light from the Christ Candle

Please pass the light along as it is shared with you.

Noel

Arranged by: Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, and Matt Redman, 2015.

Love incarnate, love divine,
Star and angels gave the sign.
Bow to babe on bended knee,
the Savior of humanity.
Unto us a Child is born;
He shall reign forevermore.

Refrain

Noel, Noel

Come and see what God has done

Noel, Noel

The story of amazing love!

The light of the world, given for us

Noel

Son of God and Son of man
There before the world began
Born to suffer, born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore

Refrain

Silent Night

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818; translated by John F. Young, 1863. Music: Franz Gruber 1818.

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,
heavenly 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!

Dismissal

Thank you for joining us! There are boxes available in the back of the sanctuary for year-end gifts.



COME AND WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings | 9:30 & 11am

