

# Christmas Eve Worship December 24, 2021 — 3:00 pm Service Order of Worship FM Frequency 99.3

May our Lord be with you! The wait is nearly over! We are glad you are here to worship the Lord of lords and Prince of Peace this Christmas Eve. Because God loved this world, He sent His Son, born of the virgin Mary, to save us from sin and death. May the Peace of God quard your heart and mind in the Jesus the Savior.

#### Welcome

### **Decoding Christmas**

#### Lighting Of The Christ Candle

Please join us in this call and response:

- L: A child has been born for us!
- A: Now we walk in God's light, because the heavens have opened and joy has come!
- L: The Prince of Peace has come to us!
- A: Soon the wars will cease and the warriors will find rest.
- L: From this time onward, justice is established!
- A: Now our burdens are eased, now the harvest has ripened, now righteousness is established!
- L: The zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this!

#### **Christmas Conversation:**

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: Jesus said, "Watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with the cares of this life and my coming spring on you suddenly like a trap."
- C: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
- P: Stay awake at all times, praying for strength.
- C: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
- P: The Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
- C: He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones.
- P: The virgin Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger...

- C: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.
- P: You will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
- C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!
- P: Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

# Prayer of the Day

Opening Hymn: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

Oh, come, all ye faithful Joyful and triumphant Oh, come ye, oh, come ye To Bethlehem Come and behold Him Born the King of angels

Oh, come, let us adore Him Oh, come, let us adore Him Oh, come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord

The highest, most holy Light of light eternal Born of a virgin A mortal he comes Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing

Oh, come, let us adore Him Oh, come, let us adore Him Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Sing, choir of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens
Of heaven above
Glory to God
All glory in the highest

Oh, come, let us adore Him Oh, come, let us adore Him Oh, come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord

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

Oh, come, let us adore Him Oh, come, let us adore Him Oh, come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" C Frederick Oakeley and John Francis Wade Public Domain CCLI License #619995

#### Old Testament Lesson: Micah 5:2-5

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace."

### New Testament Lesson: Titus 2:11-15

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly live in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority."

## Children's Message

Christmas Hymn: "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Go tell it on the mountain Over the hills and ev'rywhere Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

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

Go tell it on the mountain Over the hills and ev'rywhere Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

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

Go tell it on the mountain Over the hills and ev'rywhere Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

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

God tell it on the mountain Over the hills and ev'rywhere Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

"Go Tell It On The Mountain" John W. Work Public Domain CCLI License #619995

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:2-21

"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. And 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.

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. 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.' And 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!'

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. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."

### Scripture Closing

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God!

# Sermon — The Wait Pastor Timothy Sternberg

Hymn: "The First Noel"

The first Noel the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds In fields as they lay In fields where they lay Keeping their sheep On a cold winter's night That was so deep

Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east Beyond them far And to the earth It gave great light And so it continued Both day and night

Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel

And by the light
Of that same star
Three wise men came
From country far
To seek for a king
Was their intent
And to follow the star
Wherever it went

Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel

This star drew nigh
To the northwest
O'er Bethlehem
It took its rest
And there is did
Both stop and stay
Right over the place
Where Jesus lay

Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel Then entered in
Those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh
And frankincense

Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel

"The First Noel" Words: Public Domain; Music: Public domain CCLI License #619995

## Confession and Absolution:

- P: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
- C: We worship and bow down and give thanks. We worship Emmanuel: God with us.
- P: Merciful Father, we confess our sinfulness, plead for your forgiveness, and wait for your mercy and grace.
- C: Lord, I am tired of the struggle of sin in my life.

My own choices lead me to wrong places.

I have listened to fear instead of your Word.

I have not loved you without exception.

I have not loved others as I have loved myself.

I confess my desperate need for you.

I confess my iniquity and my sin.

Lord, create a clean heart in me.

Bind me up in your love. Heal my wounds.

Guard my heart and mind by your peace.

Pour your love into my hearts by your Spirit.

P: Listen and know this truth—When the perfect time had come, God sent his Son Jesus, born of Mary, to redeem us, so that we may be adopted as sons and daughters. God your Father redeems you and restores you. God our Father loves you. In the name of Jesus the Prince of Peace, you are forgiven and free.

C: Amen!

#### The Words Of Institution

#### The Lord's Prayer

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, forever and ever. Amen.

#### Communion

#### Benediction

- P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C: Amen.

#### Go In Peace

L: Go in peace, Read the word, Serve the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn: "Joy To The World"

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

Joy to the world
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

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

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

"Joy to The World" George Frederic Handel, Lowell Mason, and Isaac Watts Public Domain CCLI License #619995

Please follow the direction of the parking lot ushers as leave.

Thank you to the following people for today's service:

Organist — Carolyn Schell, Singers — Zack Heisey, Sue Green, Justin Olman, Allison Booth — Justin Olman

Merry

Mark Hetrick
Harden, Gabriel Sternberg, Melissa
Sternberg

Facebook — Justin Olman, Tessa Lackey

**Christmas!**