



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC + WELCOME

HYMN: “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” ((Use tune LSB #442))

O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart’s delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.

I lay in fetters, groaning;
You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.

Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.

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INVOCATION

ADVENT PROPHECY: Malachi 3:1-7

¹“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. ²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. ⁵“So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty. ⁶“I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

PRAYER

HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB #357)

**O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them victory o’er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

People: I do confess.

Pastor: So we should confess; for the Holy Scripture declares:

People: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Pastor: Do you repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

People: I do repent.

Pastor: So we should repent, as did the penitent sinners:

People: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the woman caught in adultery; the prodigal son; and others.

Pastor: Do believe that God, because of His love for us and for the sake of Jesus’ death on the cross, will forgive you all your sins?

People: I most certainly believe.

Pastor: So we should believe for the Lord Jesus declares:

People: “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Pastor: Do you promise that with the help of the Holy Spirit you will turn away from sin and seek to do good in obedience to God’s commands?

People: I do promise.

Pastor: So we should promise, for Christ, the Lord, says:

People: “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Pastor: Finally, do you believe that the word of Christ’s forgiveness I speak to you as a called servant of God, is from the Lord himself as Jesus said, “If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

People: I do so believe.

Pastor: Then as you believe, so may it be to you.

People: Amen.

ABSOLUTION

HYMN: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (Use tune TLH #645)

**Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow’ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.**

**O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.**

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EPISTLE READING: Philippians 1:2-11

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:1-6

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And all mankind will see God's salvation.’”

SONG: “All Hail King Jesus” (Dave Moody)

**All hail, King Jesus. All hail, Emmanuel.
King of kings and Lord of lords, bright Morning Star.
Throughout all eternity, I'm going to praise Him;
And forevermore, I will reign with Him. (Repeat)**

(C. 1979 Glory Alleluia Music. Used by permission. CCLI #522460)

SONG: “Lift Up Your Heads” (Steve Fry)

**Lift up your heads to the coming King,
Bow before Him and adore Him, sing!
To His majesty, let your praises be,
Pure and holy, giving glory to the King of Kings.
Pure and holy, giving glory to the King of Kings.**

(C. 1974 Birdwing Music. Used by permission. CCLI #522460)

SERMON: Luke 3:1-6 “Jesus is NOT Make Believe!”

OFFERING

PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HYMN: “O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee” (LSB #632)

**O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.**

**Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!**

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IN THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WE BELIEVE our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us with His body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins (Matt 26:26-28). In it we are united with him and with the whole Church. Baptized and confirmed Christians who believe, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that Christ’s body and blood are present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament, who acknowledge their sin, set aside any refusal to forgive (Matt 6:15), are sorry, repent (Mark 1:15) and look to Christ alone for forgiveness and strength to live the new life, are welcome to eat and drink at the Lord’s table in remembrance of Him. (1 Cor 11:25-25) You may register for Communion as the Friendship Folder is passed to you in the pew. If you have any questions, please speak to the Pastor or a Lay Minister before communing.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

SONG: "Glorify Thy Name" (Donna Adkins)

**Father, we love You,
We worship and adore You.
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name; Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.**

**Jesus, we love You,
We worship and adore You.
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name; Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.**

**Spirit, we love You,
We worship and adore You.
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name; Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.**

(C. 1981. Maranatha Music. Used by permission. CCLI #522460)

BENEDICTION

HYMN: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" (LSB #347)

**"Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over."**

**Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.**

**Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.**

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1st CANDLE - (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** - We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE - (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** - God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready" Help us to be ready to welcome YOU. O GOD (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE- (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY**- The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE- (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** - The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because He loves us (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE - (white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"**- The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

Christmas Project for Bridging.



Our Christmas project this year will be collecting blankets to give to Bridging. Bridging is a non-profit organization that helps people moving from homelessness or poverty into a home or apartment. They collect furniture and household items and then distribute them to those in need. Blankets are always a high demand item.

Please bring your new, or gently used blankets to church between now and Christmas. We will deliver the blankets to Bridging right after Christmas.

Blankets should be in good condition with no rips or stains. Please wash any used blankets that you bring. This is a great way to help those in our community and spread some Christmas joy. Thank you for supporting this project.

Chuck & Pat Squires



Lorraine McKay
1380 Marice Drive #332
Eagan MN 55121
(651) 452-5166

Tom & Barbara Morrison
217 Shawnee Trail
Shakopee MN 55379

Stanley Cherveney 22-332
c/o Mpls Vets Home
5101 Minnehaha Ave S
Mpls, MN 55417



Holiday Service Schedule:

Dec 8th, 6:30pm. Advent Service.

Dec 15th, 6:30pm. Advent Service.

Advent Service Theme: "What Do Angels Do?"

Each week we'll be looking at the role angels play in God's plans and in our life as believers in Christ.

Dec 24th, 4pm. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Dec 25th, 9:30am. Christmas Day Service with Communion



BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

Adult Bible Class:

Meets on Sundays at 8:30am-9:15am.

Also meets on Tuesdays at 11am-noon.

Location: Church fellowship hall.

Topic: Both classes are the same. We are currently finishing up our look at the book of Revelation.

Scripture References

December 5, 2021

Luke 3:1,2

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert.

1 Timothy 3:16 17

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Luke 3:3

³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:4-6

⁴As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth."

Luke 3:6

⁶And all mankind will see God's salvation.'



Altar flowers are given today in honor of Sally Endresen's birthday.



"Thank you to all those who helped to decorate the church for Christmas!"

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶And all mankind will see God’s salvation.”

1. What is implied when we say we are reading a Bible “story”?

2. Why shouldn’t we skip over verses in the Bible?

3. What purpose do the list of names in this passage serve?

4. Why did God have John the Baptist call people to repent?

5. What has happened with sin in our society today?

6. How can we tell if we treat sin as something real or make believe?

7. What helps us remember how real sin is?

8. How did John the Baptist make a straight path for Jesus to come to people?

9. Why are the words of the Creed helpful?

10. When do we start to act like Jesus is only make believe?

11. What made Jesus’ disciples so sure Jesus was real?

12. How does the Holy Spirit help us see Jesus is real?