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**FAMILY FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS SERVICE**  
**December 19, 2021**  
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**WELCOME**

**HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB #379)**

**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!**

**Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!  
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 In the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

*(Public Domain)*

**INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**Pastor:** For centuries God’s people have joined the angels in singing “Glory to God in the Highest” at Christmastime.

**People: But angels were not the only ones who sang for joy at the birth of Jesus. Many believers spoke and wrote songs of praise in response to the good news they were told.**

**Pastor:** These saints of God joined the angels of heaven in proclaiming the birth of the Savior of the world. This morning we will use these songs of saints and angels to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**NARRATION: Creation’s Song. (VanVleet Family)**

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let ev’ry heart prepare him room And heav’n and nature sing.” Have you ever heard heaven and nature sing? When Jesus was born, the angels sang from heaven. But what about nature? How can nature sing?

The beautiful hymn “Joy to the Word” is based on the words of Psalm 98. In that psalm, God describes the joy that will come to the world because of the birth of Jesus. He pictures that joy as being so wonderful that even the rivers and mountains cannot keep from singing.



That joy found in Psalm 98 is the joy that we as God's children also want to express. Jesus came to earth to be our Savior. Through the blood of Jesus, we have been washed clean of all our sins. We are his saints, the people whom he dearly loves.

We invite you to sing with saints and angels as we celebrate our Savior's birth. The songs that we sing to God and to one another - and the songs that God sings to us in his Word - will lead us to sing from the bottom of our hearts, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" How wonderful it is to know that Jesus Christ is born!

### **HYMN: "Joy to the World" (LSB #387)**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, 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, wonders of His love.**

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### **NARRATION: Gabriel's Song (Affeldt Family)**

For many years God promised that he would send his Son to be the Savior of the world. God's people kept wondering when the Lord would keep his promise. When it was the right time, God sent one of his angels to tell a young girl that she was going to give birth to the Savior of the world.

Luke tells us: "In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.'" *(Luke 1:26-28)*

Can you imagine how confused Mary must have been to hear the angel Gabriel's words? It is not surprising to hear Luke say: "Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.'" (*Luke 1:29-33*)

Now Mary was even more confused. She did not understand how she could be a mother. "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her." (*Luke 1:34-38*)

**HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (LSB #357)**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Desire of nations bind In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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**NARRATION: Mary's Song (Thiel Family)**

Later Mary visited her relative Elizabeth, who was also going to have a baby. Her son was going to tell people about Jesus. He would be called John the Baptist.

The unborn baby leaped for joy when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting. Mary was very thankful that she had been chosen to be the mother of her Lord and Savior. She spoke words to Elizabeth that we today call the Magnificat, or "Song of Mary".

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name."

"His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty."

"He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers." (*Luke 1:46-55*)

**SONG: “Mary Did You Know?” (Mark Lowry, Buddy Greene)**

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
has come to make you new?  
This Child that you delivered  
will soon deliver you.**

**Mary did you know that your baby boy  
would give sight to the blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
would calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
has walked where angels trod,  
and when you kiss your little baby  
you’ve kissed the face of God?**

**Oh, Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
is heaven’s perfect Lamb,  
and the sleeping Child you’re holding  
is the great I Am?**

*(C. 1993 Rufus Music. Used by permission. CCLI #522460)*

**NARRATION: Zechariah’s Song (Darling family)**

Mary and Elizabeth were very happy and sang for joy, but Elizabeth’s husband, Zechariah, could not speak. For nine months God made him unable to talk, because he had doubted God’s promise that he and Elizabeth would have a son. When the baby was born, however, Zechariah wrote down on a tablet that his son’s name would be John. Immediately his mouth was opened and he was able to speak. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us - to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”

“And you, my child will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” *(Luke 1:68-79)*

**HYMN: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (LSB #388)**

**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.  
Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

*(Public Domain)*

**NARRATION: The Manger (Wiech family)**

About two thousand years ago, the great event occurred as God had promised. The Savior was born. Luke tells us:

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.”

“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.”

“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” *(Luke 2:1-7)*

**HYMN: “Away in a Manger” (LSB #364)**

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

**The cattle are lowing, the 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.**

*(Public Domain)*

**NARRATION: The Angel's Song (*Nies Family*)**

“There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘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. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

“When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” *(Luke 2:15-20)*

**HYMN: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (*LSB #380*)**

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

**Christ, by highest heav’n 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 man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail, the heav’n born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

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**NARRATION: The Magi's Song (*Holland family*)**

Some time after Jesus was born, his parents moved to a house in Bethlehem. Months later they had special visitors from an eastern country. These visitors were the Magi. They saw a star that God used to tell them that the promised Savior had been born. Matthew tells us what happened once they got to Bethlehem.

“The star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” (*Matthew 2:9-11*)

The magi journeyed back to their homes, and they took the news of Jesus’ birth with them. We also have heard the good news of our Savior’s birth. Now we share the hope and love of Jesus with the world.

### **HYMN: “Silent Night” (LSB #363)**

**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.**

*(Public Domain)*

### **OFFERING**

#### **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**

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**

### **CHRISTMAS BLESSING:**

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

**People: Is with us all in Christ the newborn King.**

Pastor: Go in Christmas peace to serve the Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **FAMILY FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHORAL PIECE**

### **"Born is the King"**

*("Singing with Saints and Angels" Written by David Kolander and Jackie Gerlach)*



**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)

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## ***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



**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.**



**Holiday Service Schedule:**

**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**

A decorative border of red poinsettias with green leaves surrounds the central text. The background is a light blue color.

***If you would like  
to take home a  
poinsettia, you may  
following the 12/26  
Sunday Worship  
service.***



Thank you to my Holy Emmanuel family for the gift basket and floral bouquet. It is nice to be remembered at Christmas

I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Vera Marko

Thank you to my friends at Holy Emmanuel for the Christmas Basket. I miss all of you and wish everyone a joyous Christmas Season.

Marion Michalik

## ***A season of waiting***

Our oven recently bit the dust, and the needed replacement part is no longer manufactured. Due to an appliance shortage, we had to wait eight weeks for a new oven! Yet even amid inconvenience, I see God's purpose. We were thankful to have a grill and slow cookers in the meantime. We creatively attempted to cook favorite meals in different ways. And though we craved anything baked in an oven — cookies, casseroles, even chicken nuggets — we realized that waiting eight weeks for an oven isn't truly a trying time.

Many of us wait for much greater milestones and miracles: physical healing, the return of a prodigal child, an end to financial struggles. Paul offers us hope as we wait: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had" (Romans 15:5, NIV).

When you're in a season of waiting — including Advent! — consider what you're thankful for and what you crave. Tell God how you're feeling and ask for endurance while you wait.

—Janna Firestone

## ***From "The Stable of Bethlehem"***

'Twas not a palace proud and fair he chose for his first home;  
No dazzling pile of grandeur rare, with pillar'd hall and dome;  
Oh no! a stable, rude and poor, received him at his birth;  
And thus was born, unknown, obscure, the Lord of heaven and earth. ...

Come to your Savior's lowly bed, ye vain and proud of heart!  
And learn with bowed and humbled head the lesson 'twill impart;  
'Twill teach you not to prize too high the riches vain of earth —  
But to lay up in God's bright sky treasures of truer worth. ...

—Rosanna Leprohon (1829-1879)

# Coloring Fun

Oh come let us adore Him



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