

∞ ORDER OF WORSHIP ∞

December 26, 2021 • 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday of Christmas

*“Christmas fades, but Christ remains
forever the same”
(cf. Hebrews 13:8).*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG OF PRAISE HYMN No. 137 “What Child Is This?”

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: The wise men said, “Where is the King of the Jews?”

People: “For we have seen his star in the East.”

Leader: When they were come into the house,

People: They saw the young child with Mary, his mother.

Leader: And they fell down and worshipped him.

People: Together, let us worship the Savior, Jesus Christ.

SONG OF PRAISE HYMN No. 128
“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

CONFESSION OF SIN (unison)

Our Heavenly Father, the old year is drawing to a close, and we come in the name of Jesus Christ to claim Your love and forgiveness. You alone know what we have done that we should not have done. You alone know what we should have done that we failed to do. As we pause at the end of this old year, help us, Lord, to grasp Your grace and begin our lives anew. Your presence continues with us. Your forgiveness abides upon us. We thank You for Your faithfulness and mercy. Amen. (moment for silent prayer).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

Leader: Friends, know that God has drawn us out of the sins of our lives and has strengthened us with Christ’s steadfast love.

People: We proclaim God’s faithfulness in this assurance. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn No. 622)

CHILDREN’S TIME “What Did You Get?”

ANTHEM “Still a Bach Christmas” J.S. Bach, arr. J. Althouse

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:21-33

SERMON “Holding on to Christmas”
*“And Joseph and Mary marveled at what was said about him.”
(Luke 2:33).*

*HYMN No. 141 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

OFFERING

*Doxology (Hymn No. 625)
Dedication of Offering

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND SUPPLICATION

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)

*HYMN No. 125 “Joy to the World”

CHORAL BENEDICTION “Lo, How a Rose. E’r Blooming v. 2”
Michael Praetorius

POSTLUDE

* Those who are able, please stand

Welcome to our church today!

If you are a visitor, thank you for coming to worship with us. We invite you to fill out a Welcome Card, which you will find in the hymnal book holder in the pew . Then put the card in the offering plate that will be passed to you, during the offering. Please join us in friendship and a chance to say hello after the service. Let us know how we can assist you.

Coffee Hour

The Session has decided to cancel the Coffee Hours following our Worship Services because of COVID restrictions. We will resume the Coffee Hours as soon as deemed possible.

Office Hours

The office hours of Pastor Jim Hicks, temporary pastor, are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon.
Pastor Jim Hicks – 607-898-5201- hicksjam@verizon.net

For Prayer:

Dave and Kathlene Gross, Bob Sincerbeaux,
Jim Krebs, brother of Dottie Slocum, sister of Carol LaPlant

Worship for Next Sunday

January 2, 2022
Second Sunday of Christmas
Scripture: Romans 13:11-14
Sermon: "Our Little Systems"

What Child Is This?

Verse 1:

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?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
This, this is Christ the King,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Verse 2:

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

Verse 3:

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come, peasant, King, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain

Text: William C. Dix

Music: *Greensleeves*, Traditional English melody, 16th century

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Verse 1:

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heav’n’s all-gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Verse 2:

Still thru the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Verse 3:

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

Verse 4:

For lo, the days are hast’ning on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heav’n and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears
Music: *Carol*, Richard S. Willis

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, Amen.

Text: *Gloria Patri*; Traditional, 2nd century
Music: *Meineke*, Christoph Meineke

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken
Music: Old Hundredth, Genevan Psalter, 1551; attributed to Louis Bourgeois

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verse 1:

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep a 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.

Verse 2:

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love,
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

Verse 3:

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in.

Verse 4:

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.
Amen.

Text: Philip Brooks
Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner

Joy to the World!

Verse 1:

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.

Verse 2:

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.

Verse 3:

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.

Verse 4:

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.

Text: Isaac Watts
Music: *Antioch* by George Frederick Handel, arr by Lowell Mason