

December 2nd, 2018

*This is the day that the LORD has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24*

Please greet those around you before the announcements begin.

Welcome and Announcements

Time of Greeting (Sharing God's Welcome)

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Moments of Meditation

While the music is being played, quietly prepare your heart for worship.

“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.”

Trinity Hymnal No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Pethel

Call to Worship

Psalm 24

***Hymn of Praise**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

No. 198

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

A helper just He comes to thee, His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

***Prayer of Invocation**

Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Hope

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11
Pew Bible Page 1119

Prayer of Confession

O most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who pardons all who truly repent and turn to You, we humbly confess our sins and implore Your mercy. We have not loved You with a pure heart fervently, neither have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justly, nor loved mercy, nor walked humbly with You, our God. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, according to Your loving kindness. According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out our iniquity. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from us. Restore unto us the joy of Your salvation and uphold us with Your free Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Isaiah 59:20

²⁰ “The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the Lord.

***Hymn of Thanksgiving**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

No. 194

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, O come Thou Lord of might, who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient time didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
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, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

New City Catechism Question # 12

What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive, but speak the truth in love. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone or resenting what God has given them or us.

Prayer of Intercession

Tithes and Offering *He Shall Feed His Flock, from "The Messiah"* arr. Broughton

***Hymn of Preparation** *Once in Royal David's City* No. 225

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood He would honor and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as He.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Sermon

Christmas According to Matthew: Roots

Matthew 1:1-17
Pew Bible Page 1496

Sermon Outline:

1. Patriarchs
2. Kings
3. Exiles

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Please hold the elements so that we may all partake together.

The bread set apart is gluten free.

We use wine in the Lord's Supper, however, for those who prefer,
grape juice is provided in the outer ring of the tray.

***Hymn of Response**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

No. 196

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 ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
come Thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to Him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
by His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

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.

***Benediction**

***Gloria Patri**

No. 735

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.

***Postlude**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

arr. Larson

*** Congregation:** Please stand as able.

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Organ / Piano

Sandy DeGroot

Scripture Reading and Intercessory Prayer:

Nelson Schoon, Elder

Weekly Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
SUN 12/02	9:00 AM	Opening Exercises
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship Service & The Lord's Supper
MON 12/03	6:00 PM	Hrivnak Care Group
WED 12/05	9:30 AM	Ladies' Bible Study
	11:00 AM	Ladies' Bible Study
SAT 12/08	8:00 AM	GSPC Men's Study
SUN 12/09	9:00 AM	Opening Exercises
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	6:00 PM	Prayer Meeting

Important Upcoming Events

SUN 12/16	12:00 PM	Congregational Meeting
THURS 2/07	6:30 PM	Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Class First class of 9-week session
SAT 2/09	6:30 PM	Annual Variety Show

Serving the Lord

	<i>12/02</i>	<i>12/09</i>	<i>12/16</i>
S.S. Nursery	L. Marshall	B. Schoon	L. Martin
AM Nursery	A. Lindborg, Cordie A.	Briana M., Chrissa M.	B. Schoon, Grace V.
Greeters	Hale / Grass	Sederberg	Lanenga
Bring Treats	O'Neal	Schoon	Lindborg
Server & Clean-Up	O'Neal	Schoon	Lindborg
Audio	Jackson G.	J. Martin	B. Armstrong
Elder of the Week	Schoon	Stoltzfus	Lindborg
Deacon of the Week	Martin	Stechly	DeGroot

Announcements

☞ **The Lord's Supper:** The Lord's Supper will be celebrated today. An offering for the Deacon's Fund will be received at the back of the sanctuary.

☞ **Christmas Cards for Missionaries:** It would be wonderful if everyone would sign all 14 Christmas cards for our church's supported missionaries. It will mean a lot to them to be remembered by you. Please do it today as we'll be sending the cards this week.

☞ **McAuley Newsletter:** The recent newsletter of Luke and Amanda McAuley is in the Missions display case at the back of the sanctuary. The newsletter gives an update on the Bethany Kids' ministry to Kenyan kids with disabilities. Lots of pictures! Please check it out!

☞ **New Address:** Please make a note in your church directory that Bill Ketner has moved to a new apartment at Pines Village. He is now in Apartment 122.

☞ **Congregational Meeting December 16:** The Session has called for a congregational meeting for shortly after the worship service on Sunday, December 16. All members are requested to attend. The meeting will deal with some financial matters associated with Pastor Greene's resignation as pastor, and upon which a vote will be taken. Please pick up an addressed envelope containing a letter with more details. It is not anticipated that this will be a long meeting, but it will be an important one.

☞ **Community Ministry Suggestions:** The church would like to be more actively involved in some local ministries and/or organizations. If you volunteer at a ministry or organization or you have heard of one that interests you, please write its name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

☞ **Matching Gift for McAuleys:** Luke McAuley has been asked to present to a group of missionary doctors in Thailand about the wheelchair program that he has organized in Kenya. He was encouraged to take his entire family as a respite for them. Of course, this has an expense of \$10,000 for airfare, etc. for them all. He has received about \$3500 and has an additional need of \$6500. Currently there is within our church a matching gift of \$1500 that is available. If you would like to consider contributing to that match, please write in the memo section of your check "McAuley Gift." Please understand that this should be in addition to your regular monthly giving to the church.

☞ **McAuley Christmas Gift:** An individual from Jacob's Ladder is going to Kenya on December 2. She says she has room to take items to the McAuleys. Luke and Amanda are putting together their Amazon Wish List. Please consider a gift for this as well. In the memo section put "McAuley Christmas."

☞ **\$5,000 Matching Gifts:** If you desire to give above your normal monthly gift, please write "Matching Gift" in the memo of your check going toward these two \$5,000 matching gifts or include a note with your cash gifts. If you have questions, please see one of the deacons.

☞ **Christmas Eve Service:** A special service is scheduled for Monday, December 24, at 6:00 pm. Invite your friends to come and prepare for Christ's birth!

☞ **No Sunday School Classes:** There will be no Sunday School classes on December 23 and December 30. Classes will resume on January 6.