

December 9th, 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.

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:14

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Hartsell

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-7

*Hymn of Praise

Angels from the Realms of Glory

No. 218

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant light: **Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear. **Refrain**

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

***Prayer of Invocation**

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle: Peace

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-5; 18-20

Pew Bible Page 1155

Prayer of Confession

O gracious and gentle and condescending God, God of peace, Father of mercy, God of all comfort: we confess before You the evil of our hearts. We acknowledge that we are too inclined toward anger, jealousy, and revenge, to ambition and pride, which often give rise to discord and bitter feelings between others and us. Too often have we thus both offended and grieved You, O long-suffering Father. Forgive us this sin and permit us to partake of the blessing You have promised the peace-makers, who shall be called the children of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

John 1:14

¹⁴ “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Ministry of Music

Emmanuel [Hallowed Manger Ground]

by Chris Tomlin

What hope we hold this starlit night; A King is born in Bethlehem.
Our journey long, we seek the light that leads to the hallowed manger ground.
What fear we felt in the silent age; Four-hundred years can He be found?
But broken by a baby's cry; Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel. God incarnate, here to dwell.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel. Praise His name Emmanuel.

The son of God, here born to bleed; A crown of thorns would pierce His brow.
And we beheld this offering; Exalted now the King of kings.
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel. God incarnate, here to dwell.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel. Praise His name Emmanuel.

Praise His name Emmanuel.

***Hymn of Thanksgiving**

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

No. 217

All my heart this night rejoices
as I hear far and near sweetest angel voices.
“Christ is born,” their choirs are singing
till the air ev’rywhere now with joy is ringing.

Forth today the Conqu’ror goeth
who the foe, sin and woe, death and hell, o’er-throweth.
God is man, man to deliver;
His dear Son now is one with our blood forever.

Shall we still dread God’s displeasure,
who, to save, freely gave His most cherished Treasure?
To redeem us, He hath given
His own Son from the throne of His might in heaven.

He becomes the Lamb that taketh
sin away and for aye full atonement maketh.
For our life His own He tenders;
and our race, by His grace, meet for glory renders.

Hark! a voice from yonder manger,
soft and sweet, doth entreat: “Flee from woe and danger.
Brethren, from all ills that grieve you,
you are freed; all you need I will surely give you.”

Come, then, banish all your sadness,
one and all, great and small; come with songs of gladness.
Love Him who with love is glowing,
hail the star, near and far light and joy bestowing.

Dearest Lord, Thee will I cherish.
Though my breath fail in death, yet I shall not perish,
but with Thee abide forever
there on high, in that joy which can vanish never.

New City Catechism Question # 13

Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.

Prayer of Intercession

Tithes and Offering

How Great Our Joy!

arr. McKechnie

***Hymn of Preparation**

Away in a Manger

No. 204

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the bright 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 fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Christmas grace is:

1. Disruptive
2. Merciful
3. Saving

***Hymn of Response**

See, amid the Winter's Snow

No. 199

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below.
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain:

Hail thou ever blessed morn! Hail redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim. **Refrain**

Say, ye holy shepherds, say, What's your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? **Refrain**

“As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing, ‘Peace on earth,’ told us of the Savior's birth.” **Refrain**

Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this! **Refrain**

Teach, O teach us, holy Child, by Thy face so meek and mild.
Teach us to resemble Thee, in Thy sweet humility. **Refrain**

***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. Faber

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

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Piano & Solo

Denise O'Neal

Scripture Reading and Intercessory Prayer:

Bruce Stoltzfus, Elder

Weekly Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
SUN 12/09	9:00 AM	Opening Exercises
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	6:00 PM	Prayer Meeting
WED 12/12	9:30 AM	Ladies' Bible Study
	11:00 AM	Ladies' Bible Study
THURS 12/13	1:00 PM	Greene Care Group (Note change of day)
	6:30 PM	Deacons and Session Meet
SUN 12/16	9:00 AM	Opening Exercises
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Congregational Meeting

Important Upcoming Events

WED 1/30	6:30 PM	Annual Corporation 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>12/09</i>	<i>12/16</i>	<i>12/23</i>
S.S. Nursery	B. Schoon	L. Martin	No S.S.
AM Nursery	Briana M., Chrissa M.	B. Schoon, Grace V.	LE Greene, Alanna T.
PM Nursery	LE Greene	-----	-----
Greeters	Sederberg	Lanenga	Stoltzfus
Bring Treats	Schoon	Lindborg	LE Greene
Server & Clean-Up	Schoon	Lindborg	LE Greene
Audio	J. Martin	B. Armstrong	B. Schoon
Elder of the Week	Stoltzfus	Lindborg	Schoon
Deacon of the Week	Stechly	DeGroot	Vanderstar

Announcements

☞ **Prayer Meeting Tonight:** Prayer meeting will be held tonight at 6 pm. Come spend an hour in prayer to our Lord. Childcare will be provided.

☞ **Congregational Meeting December 16:** The Session has called for a congregational meeting for shortly after the worship service next 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. It is not anticipated that this will be a long meeting, but it will be an important one.

☞ **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!

☞ **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:** 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.