

December 16th, 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.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you:
he is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

arr. Wilbur Held

Call to Worship

Luke 2:8-14

***Hymn of Praise**

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 214

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***Prayer of Invocation**

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Love

Ministry of Music

Love Came Down to Bethlehem

by Maher & Guerra

Love came down to Bethlehem while the world was sleeping.
Love came down to make amends for all creation's weeping.
He that sang the stars to life. He, the Word, became a cry:
Rejoice, rejoice, glory to God, Hallelujah, Gloria.

King of heaven's high estate, Child in lowly manger.
His the privilege to forsake, to welcome in the stranger.
Born to heal the bonds of men, born that we be born again.
Rejoice, rejoice, glory to God, Hallelujah.

Heaven and nature singing together, "Glory to God, Hallelujah, Gloria, Gloria!"
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Rejoice, rejoice, glory to God, Hallelujah.
Heaven and nature singing together, "Glory to God, Hallelujah, Gloria, Gloria!"

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16
Pew Bible Page 1069

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments. We have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly, and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants, the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our rulers, our fathers, and all the people of the land. Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God belongs compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; we have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to

walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets. Indeed, all of us have transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice. So now, our God, listen to our prayer and supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. O our God, incline Your ear and hear, for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. O Lord, hear and forgive! For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Habakkuk 3:17-18; 2:20

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. ^{2:20} But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.

***Hymn of Thanksgiving**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

No. 193

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

New City Catechism Question # 14

Did God create us unable to keep his law?

No, but because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, all of creation is fallen; we are all born in sin and guilt, corrupt in our nature and unable to keep God's law.

Prayer of Intercession

Tithes and Offering

Coventry Carol

arr. Wilhelmi

*Hymn of Preparation

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

No. 222

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he – for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind -
“glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.”

“To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line,
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:

The heav'nly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth, from heav'n to men, begin and never cease!”

Outline:

1. The peace of Immanuel

2. The presence of Immanuel

***Hymn of Response**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

No. 221

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old 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 men a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright,
how Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found Him, as angel heralds said.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere;
True Man, yet very God; from sin and death He saves us and lightens ev'ry load.

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.

***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**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Berry

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

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Trio

Valerie Lash, Denise O'Neal, Bruce Stoltzfus

Instrumentalists Leam Armstrong, Anastasia Severson, Alanna Tuitman, Alan Tuitman

Piano & Organ Sandy DeGroot

Scripture Reading and Intercessory Prayer: Yon Lindborg, Elder

Weekly Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
SUN 12/16	9:00 AM	Opening Exercises
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Congregational Meeting
SUN 12/23	10:30 AM	Worship Service

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
SAT 2/09	6:30 PM	Annual Variety Show
SUN 2/24	6:00 PM	Carry-in dinner with missionary Tracy Dager

Serving the Lord

	<i>12/16</i>	<i>12/23</i>	<i>12/30</i>
S.S. Nursery	L. Martin	No S.S.	No S.S.
AM Nursery	B. Schoon, Grace V.	LE Greene, Alanna T.	L. Martin, Chrissa M.
Greeters	DeGroot	Stoltzfus	Jackson G.
Bring Treats	Lindborg	LE Greene	Lash
Server & Clean-Up	Lindborg	LE Greene	Lash
Audio	B. Armstrong	B. Schoon	L. Marshall
Elder of the Week	Lindborg	Schoon	Stoltzfus
Deacon of the Week	DeGroot	Vanderstar	Lash

Announcements

☞ **Congregational Meeting Today After Morning Worship Service:** The Session has called for a congregational meeting for shortly after the worship service. 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.

☞ **Transportation Needed:** Members of the congregation have been helping Jimmy and Lidia Trujillo get to their cleaning jobs over the last several months. Some of the past drivers' schedules have changes and they are not able to help in January and February. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Please consider helping them until Jimmy gets his driver's license in February.

☞ **Children Participating in Service Next Sunday:** All children in grades K-6 are encouraged to sing "Silent Night" during the morning worship service next Sunday. There will be no rehearsals for this ministry of music. Children from our congregation and those visiting are invited to participate.

☞ **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 next Sunday, December 23 and on December 30. Classes will resume on January 6.

☞ **You Are Invited:** Jackson Greene will be receiving his Boy Scout Eagle Award at a ceremony at First Christian Church (across the street from Valplayso) on Saturday, January 5, at 11 am. There will be a reception in the fellowship hall afterward.

☞ **Thank You:** Sandy Schoon wishes to thank the congregation for the prayers and meals given while she has been recovering from knee replacement surgery.

☞ **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. 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.