

December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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)**

\* \* \*

### **Moments of Meditation**

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

“O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.”

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

arr. Doran

### **Call to Worship**

Isaiah 40:9-11

### **\*Hymn of Praise**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

No. 208

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.

God of God, Light of Light;  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created; (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God \_, in the highest; (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

### **Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Joy**

### **Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 60:1-9; 18-22  
Pew Bible Page 1155

### **Prayer of Confession**

Waken our hearts, O Lord, our God; make them ever watchful to serve You and Your purposes. Trouble us with the smallness of our vision and work. Trouble us with the greatness of Your command to make disciples of all nations. Trouble us with Your great love for sinners and our own slowness to make You our greatest love. Trouble us with the brevity of our lives and time, talent, and treasure not invested in eternity. Comfort us by drawing us to Yourself with the cords of Your unfailing mercy. Comfort us, O Lord, with the assurance of our salvation and unending glory with You when we suffer and are afflicted. Rekindle in us a renewed desire for the coming of Your glorious kingdom when all wrongs will be made right, when everything that is broken will be made whole, and when we will trade a cross for a crown. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*—Adapted from the Prayers of Martin Luther*

## Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Isaiah 9:2-3

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

## \*Hymn of Thanksgiving (Women sing the echo)

*While by the Sheep We Watched at Night*

No. 215

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.

**Refrain:** How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

There shall be born, so He did say, in Bethlehem a Child today. (Refrain)

There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall redeem us all. (Refrain)

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill. (Refrain)

## Ministry of Music

*Silent Night*

Children's Choir

## New City Catechism Question # 15

**Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?**

That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior. The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Savior.

## Prayer of Intercession

## Tithes and Offering

*What Child Is This?*

arr. Wolaver

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.

Still through 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.

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.

For lo, the days are hast’ning on, by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
when PEACE shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

**Sermon**

**A Star Is Born**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

Pew Bible Page 1497

Outline:

1. Star of wonder

Outline Continued:

2. Star of night

3. Star with royal beauty bright

**\*Hymn of Response**

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

No. 195

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every 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.

**\*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**

*Joy to the World*

arr. Bock

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**Children's Choir Director**  
**Orff Instruments**  
**Flute**  
**Viola**  
**Alto Saxophone**  
**Tenor Saxophone**  
**Bassoon**  
**Piano & Organ**  
**Scripture Reading**  
**Intercessory Prayer**

Becky Schoon  
Grayden & Aaron Lash  
Denise O'Neal  
Alan Tuitman  
Alanna Tuitman  
Leam Armstrong  
Anastasia Severson  
Sandy Schoon  
Melissa Stoltzfus  
Nelson Schoon, Elder

## Weekly Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
SUN 12/23	10:30 AM	Worship Service
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### 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

	12/23	12/24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	12/30
S.S. Nursery	No S.S.	-----	No S.S.
AM Nursery	LE Greene, Alanna T.	<b>P.M Nursery</b> Y. Lindborg, Mallory V.	L. Martin, Chrissa M.
Greeters	Stoltzfus	-----	Jackson G.
Bring Treats	LE Greene	-----	Schoon
Server & Clean-Up	LE Greene	-----	Schoon
Audio	B. Schoon	Jackson G.	L. Marshall
Elder of the Week	Schoon	-----	Stoltzfus
Deacon of the Week	Vanderstar	-----	Lash

## Announcements

☞ **Children Participating in the Service This Morning:** All children in grades PreK-6 are encouraged to sing “Silent Night” during the morning worship service today. Children from our congregation and those visiting are invited to participate. Please go to the front of the sanctuary during the singing of “While by the Sheep We Watched at Night.”

☞ **Christmas Eve Service:** A special service is scheduled for tomorrow evening, 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 30. Classes will resume on January 6.

☞ **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 changed 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.

☞ **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.

☞ **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.”



☞ **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.

☞ **\$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.