

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*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.

### **Moments of Meditation**

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

“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you  
good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day  
in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’”

Luke 2:10-11

**Prelude** *Sing Noel, Noel* arr. Bober

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Time of Greeting (Sharing God’s Welcome)**

**Interlude** *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* arr. Smith

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**\*Call to Worship** Psalm 110:1-4

**\*Hymn of Praise** *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.

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

#### **Lighting of the Third Advent Candle**

**Leader:** Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people and has raised up an hour of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.

**People:** **As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

**Leader:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.

**People:** **And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Leader:** Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

**Unison:** **He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.**

Blessed be the Lord of Israel who saves and sets us free  
from David's house a Savior comes to end all tyranny.

The prophets sang that God would come and shatter hatred's might;  
the promise made to Abraham fulfilled within our sight.

God's mighty arm shall set us free to worship without fear,  
so good and righteous we might be and faithful year to year.

O Child, you shall prepare the way, God's prophet you shall be  
and speak salvation's healing word, God's wondrous jubilee.

As dawn brings hope to those in gloom when fear and sadness cease,  
God's mercy lights our failing hearts and guides our feet to peace.

**Scripture Reading**

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Pew Bible Page 480

**Prayer of Confession**

Our Father in heaven, often we are tired and weary. Too often this week we have forsaken the means of grace that You have given us to grow strong and exchanged them for the fleeting comforts of this world. Forgive us for this, Father, and increase our faith, repentance, and obedience to Your revealed will. Encourage us on in the means of grace that You have given so that we might shine brightly for our great King, that we may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish during a crooked and twisted generation. Do this for us, we pray, in Jesus name, Amen.

**Assurance of Pardoning Grace**

Psalm 110:5-7

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. <sup>6</sup> He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. <sup>7</sup> He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with the lyrics: 'Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be -'. The second staff continues: 'Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be -'. The third staff continues: 'Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we'. The fourth staff continues: 'cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der, cam - est poor; man; stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing, wor - ship Thee. Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing, sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be - heav'n - ward by Thine e - ter - nal plan. Thou who art God be - make us what Thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love be -'. The fifth staff continues: 'yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor. yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man. yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship Thee.'

**Westminster Shorter Catechism 3 & 4**

Q. 1 What do the scriptures principally teach?

**A. The scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.**

Q. 2 What is God?

**A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.**

**Prayer of Intercession**

**Tithes and Offering**

*What Child is This?*

arr. Bober

**\*Hymn of Preparation**

*Praise to the Lord the Almighty*

No. 53

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near, join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
ponder anew what the Almighty will do, if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,  
decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.  
How oft in grief hath not He brought thee relief, spreading His wings to o'er-shade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the amen sound from His people again; gladly fore'er we adore Him!

Outline

1. Promises to David

2. Promises to Abraham

3. Promises to John

## Questions for Further Reflection:

1. How good are you at keeping promises? Have you ever had someone break a promise? How did that make you feel when a promise was broken? What assurance does it give you that God is a God of promises? Can God ever break a promise?
2. What, if anything, motivates you to sing? How is our outward song a reflection of what's going on inside of us?
3. What are some of the biggest challenges facing the Church today? What can we do about them? How does knowing that "God shows strength with his arm" affect how we face these challenges?
4. Who are the young people in your church? Do you know them by name? How can you become a 'spiritual aunt or uncle' to them?

## \*Hymn of Response

*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. **(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. Bober

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**Duet**

Becky & Nelson Schoon

**Accompanist**

Sandy Schoon

**Piano**

Denise O'Neal

**Intercessory Prayer**

Bruce Stoltzfus, Elder



## **Poinsettias**

The poinsettias in front of the sanctuary are in memory of loved ones who have passed before us. We honor them this Christmas season.

**Blanch & Harold Anderson**, mother and father of Kathie Anderson

**Chris Bliss**, father of Jenni Gretzinger

**Til Bos**, sister of Pete Lanenga

**Brianna Darling**, granddaughter of Jerry & Sandy DeGroot

**Tom Gasche**, husband of Martha Liechty Gasche

**Mildred Harreld**, mother of Debra Chappell

**Nancy & Britt Kern**, mother and father of Mike Kern

**Anna Ketner**, mother of Bill Ketner

**Dorothy Ketner**, wife of Bill Ketner

**Bill Kraeger**, husband of Debra Chappell

**Maria**, grandmother of Lidia Nazario

**Dorothy & Louis Runge**, mother and father of Robbin Kern

**Bill Saggau**, father of Sandy Schoon

**Lillian & Warren Schoon**, mother and father of Nelson Schoon

**Charles Sederberg**, husband of Phyllis Sederberg

**LaVergne & Harvey Terpstra**, mother and father of Barb Terpstra

**Vicente**, grandfather of Jimmy Trujillo

**George Veenstra**, husband of Joan Veenstra

**Mary Workman**, sister-in-law of Cherie Lee Yonker

## Weekly Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
<b>SUN 12/15</b>	9:00 AM	Opening Exercises
	9:15 AM	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	5:00 PM	Youth Bible Study
<b>WED 12/18</b>	9:30 AM	Ladies' Bible Study & Breakfast
<b>SAT 12/21</b>	8:00 PM	Men's Bible Study
	12:00 PM	Cookie Exchange at the church
<b>SUN 12/22</b>	10:30 AM	Worship Service

## Important Upcoming Events

**TUES 12/24**      6:00 PM      Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



## Serving the Lord

	12/15	12/22	12/24 Christmas Eve
AM Nursery	F. Armstrong, Cordie A.	V. Lash, Aaron L.	C. Tuitman, Alanna T.
Greeters	J. Rogers	Stechly	Lindborg
Treats	J. Rogers	O'Neal	-----
Serve/Cleanup	Lindborg	O'Neal	-----
Audio	B. Schoon	B. Armstrong	B. Schoon
Elder of the Week	Lindborg	Schoon	-----

## Announcements

☞ **McAuley Family:** Today we have with us the McAuley family who has been in Kenya the past 3 years. Luke and Amanda, along with their 5 children Caden, Reuben, Aniah, Eli, & Tobias, attended here for several years until they left for Kenya in September of 2016. Luke is an Occupational Therapist and has been very active with Bethany Kids. They are currently back for their Home Mission Assignment to reconnect with family, friends, and supporters. Please stay for the fellowship after the service and a short presentation by Luke and Amanda about their work in Kenya.

☞ **Christmas Eve Service:** A special candlelight service is scheduled for Tuesday, December 24, at 6:00 pm. The Valparaiso Mennonite Church (we hosted a VBS with them this past summer) will be joining us for this service. Invite your friends to come and prepare for Christ's birth through this service of Lessons and Carols.

☞ **No Sunday School Classes:** There will be no Sunday School classes next Sunday, December 22 and the following Sunday, December 29. Classes will resume on January 5.

☞ **Christmas Cookie Exchange:** Jenni Gretzinger would like to invite the woman of Good Shepherd, and any family or friends that would like to come, to join in a new tradition of fellowship. This Saturday at 12:00 o'clock, we will have a cookie exchange **at the church**. Please bring 4 dozen cookies (bought or homemade) and return home with a new assortment of cookies. A soup lunch will be provided for you. There will be a short meditation on the advent season and singing some carols. What a lovely way to get to know each other a little more and celebrate the birth of our King! A sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer. Hope to see you there! Please don't let the need for 4 dozen cookies to keep you away.