

**WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD
GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

DECEMBER 10, 2023

Prelude *Parents of children ages 3-3rd grade: Children’s Church will be for the entire worship hour this Sunday. Please silence all phones/electronic devices as we prepare to worship our great God.*

Announcements and Welcome

Dee Hammond,
Pastor of Missions

The Song of Ascent

God’s people sang together as they gathered and traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.

The First Noel

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heav’n and earth of naught
And with his blood mankind has bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Call to Worship and Invocation

1 Peter 1:18-21

“knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Hymn of Praise

O Come All Ye Faithful

#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;
Ve-ry God, be-gotten not created.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
Glory to God-, in the highest

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;

Reading of God’s Word

Travis Brown,
Pastor to Youth

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.
All: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

The Hope Of The World

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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!

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.

Come, Thou great Redeemer, Come, Emmanuel;
Bless the nations with Your presence here.
Born our souls to rescue, Born to save Your very own;
Long-expected Jesus, make our heart Your throne.

Luke 2.8-15

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 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. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

The Wait Is Over

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this the Christ who was long foretold.
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God most high in a manger laid, Lift your voices and now proclaim:
Great and glorious, Love has come to us, Join now with the hosts of Heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel, King who came with no crown or throne.
Helpless He lay, the invincible, maker of Mary, now Mary’s son.
O what wisdom to save us all, shepherds, sages, before him fall.
Grace and majesty, what humility; come, on bended knee adore Him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel; joy and peace for the weary heart.
Lift up your heads, for your King has come; sing for the light overwhelms the dark.
Glory shining for all to see, hope alive; let the gospel ring.
God has made a way; He will have the praise. Tell the world His name is Jesus.

Gloria! Gloria!

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this the Christ who was long foretold.
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold.

God in Flesh Appearing

Hear the song of Bethlehem through the ages still it rings;
Sweet refrain of seraphim, sacred praises to the King

Refrain:

Hear the cries of a Child calling to a world that’s weary
Precious Lord, meek and mild, He is God in flesh appearing.

Sov’ reign Lord with feet and hands, love divine in flesh and blood;
Son of God and Son of man, this is heaven’s gift to us.

Here, now, the long awaited One;
Here, now, at last our Savior comes!

Silence reigned so very long, prophets’ voices went unheard;
Then tonight so clear and strong, Jesus Christ, the Living Word.

Jesus is the Gift

Our Gifts to God

Receiving of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

Please pass and sign the registration pad in the hymnal rack.

The Gift of Music

The Glory Of Christmas

Orchestra

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Away in a Manger

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne (reprise)

