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
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
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)

Orchestra

Hymn of Testimony Hark! The Herald Angels Sing! Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King: Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity, Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hope is Here

Unto Us

Unto us a Child is born and unto us a Son is given. God with us, go and tell, Emmanuel has come from Heaven. And His name will ever be The Prince of Peace, The Wonderful Counselor. He's the Great and Mighty Lord; bow before our Holy Savior!

Unto us a Child is born, Hope to all the world! Unto us the Son of God has come, Sing Hallelujah! Everlasting Father, Name above all names! God is with us, Sing Hallelujah!

He's the Prince of Peace, He's the Mighty God. He's the Savior born to set the captives free. He's the Promised One, the Messiah come, And His love will reign throughout eternity.

Unto us a Child is born, Hope to all the world! Unto us the Son of God has come, We will sing Hallelujah! Shining in the darkness, Light to all the world! Unto us the Son of God has come, We will sing Hallelujah! Everlasting Father, Name above all names! God is with us, Sing Hallelujah!

"Hope of the World" Homily

Ben Phillips, 1 Peter 1:18-21 Pastor of Ministries

Our Response

Hallelujah Chorus **Hymn of Response**

The Benediction and Three-Fold Amen





#277

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Staff

Ben Phillips, Pastor of Ministries • Dee Hammond, Pastor of Missions & Outreach Travis Brown, Pastor to Youth • Richard MacLagan, Minister of Music Mike Owens, Minister to Children • Sarah Tilley, Youth Ministry Assistant Mindy Burch, Church Administrator • Chad Trotter, IT & Media Director Nancy Burkhart. Preschool Director

Floy Jumper, Facility Manager • Lynn Perkins, Kitchen Coordinator Susan MacLagan, Accompanist • Bev Bradbury, Organist

Session

Scott Allen • Bob Bishop • Bryan Cox • Jason Cunningham • Terry Ensley Andy Jobson • Dave Martin • Will McVey • Marty Moore • John Rollo Steve Saville • Dennis Swinehart • George Tucker • Jim Zeller **Elders Emeriti**

> Benny Hurley • Jim Parks • Jack Sweeney • Andy Watkins Diaconate

P.J. Friedell • James Hinds • Tommy Hulsey • Mike Johnson • Jeff Knight Mike Peifer • Mark Pignolet • Steve Wentz Women's Ministry Leadership Team

Peggy Creighton • Lezlie Valentine • Lanette Haas • Bethany Batusic • Sarah Gossage Sarah Lingerfelt • Barbara Jumper • Jen Burkhart • Aneita Connor • Christina Elmore **CMPC Supported Missions**

Unless otherwise indicated, all missionaries are with Mission to the World Asia/New Zealand/India

Japan: Darlene Johnson, Jonas & Christina Davison, Melanie Johnson Thailand: Tim & Rhianna Mills, Noah & Karleigh Stephens, Trey & Kiki Adams New Zealand: Paul & Crystal Henry • Taiwan: Becky White • North Korea: Jonathan & Joy Lee Europe

> Bulgaria: Grace Chung, Gary & Tammy Elliott REF Poland: Nathan & Kasia Tunnell REF • Czech Republic: Miriam Grady Germany: Brian & Megan Moore • England: Brett & Valerie McAlpin Romania: Derek & Catalina Kreider • Greece: David & Erin Pervis

Americas

Canada: Bill & Mae Lee Letchworth

Honduras: Alex & Maggie Halbert • Peru: Andrew & Krista May, Julia King El Salvador: Clay & Hannah Jones • Mexico: David & Michelle Godzisz Grenada: Jeff & Ruth Ann Knight

Africa

East Africa: Donna • Kenya: Sherwood & Bethany Griggs, Anaweza Unreached Peoples

Last names and locations withheld due to the sensitive nature of their situations. David & Marcia • Franklin & Beth • Emily • Kurt & Jill • Chris & Savanna • Brian & Mandy David & Jan • Phil & Amina • Calvin & Geeta • Mark & Nathalie

Global Ministries: Linda Summer, Agape Puppets • Mike & Robin McMahan, Global Trainina Manila Street Child Ministry, Philippines

Matthew Mercer, Worldwide Discipleship Association • Terry Ensley, Equipping Leaders Intl **United States**

Hernando & Debbie Saenz, MNA Hispanic Ministry Coordinator Alan & Kim Foster, MNA Church Planter Recruiter;

Jeff & Caroline Thompson, Reformed University Fellowship International UGA; Tracey & Suzanne West, Reformed University Fellowship GA Tech:

Ben & Anna Coppedge, Caysie Ashton, Reformed University Fellowship UGA; Mwamba & Nyema Johnson Vision 938: Atlanta University Center

PCA Church Planters: Curran & Abby Bishop, Milford, CT;

Alejandro & Beth Oropeza, Amistad Hispana, Chestnut Mountain, GA;

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Administrative Committee • The Committee on Discipleship Ministries • Covenant College Georgia Foothills Presbytery • MTW • MNA • Reformed University Fellowship • Ridge Haven **Local Ministries**

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