



Worship Gathering
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2017

Gathering as the Body

Call to Worship / Lighting of Advent Wreath

All God's people—Boys and girls, women, men:

Come and worship!

Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:

Come and worship! Come and worship!

All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

**Come and worship, come and worship Christ,
the newborn King!**

Song: Once In Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city / Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby / In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild / Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven / Who is God and Lord of all
And his shelter was a stable / And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, & mean, & lowly / Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him / Thru his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle / Is our Lord in heav'n above,
And he leads his children on / To the place where he is gone.

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading Genesis 3:8-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall crush the serpent's head.

Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel (vv. 1-2)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Second Scripture Reading Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to Abraham that his seed shall bring about the blessing of the nations.

Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel (vv. 3-4)

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bud envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Third Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

Song: 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 every nation, Joy of every 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.

Fourth Scripture Reading Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet proclaims the king will come out of Bethlehem and usher in a reign of peace and justice.

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondrous love
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King and Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in

Fifth Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son, whose kingdom will never end.

Song: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

Sixth Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7

Against the backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

Song: 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!

Seventh Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger:

Song: Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
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.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Eighth Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Song: What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
the cross he bore for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

Ninth Scripture Reading John 1:1-14

The Apostle John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Song: Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Let earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room

And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the World, 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

Prayers Around the Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Bless-ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high -
est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Song: O Holy Night

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Song: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels;

Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, Glory in the highest;

Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing;

Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Sending
Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Sending & Blessing

Go now, glorifying and praising God
for all you have heard and seen.

Renounce ungodly living and unworthy desires,
and take control of your life with godliness and honour.

And may the God of grace increase your joy.

May Christ Jesus be born as Saviour within you.

And may the Spirit, the Wonderful Counsellor,
make the good news known to you and through you.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

