



The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out
laborers into His harvest" Luke 10:2

Fourth Sunday of Advent,
December 18, 2016

Welcome!

For God's glory and by His grace, Harvest Fellowship exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are progressively growing in their love of God, their love of people, and their commitment to help others grow as disciples.

If you are visiting with us today, we would love to have a record of your attendance. Please fill in the 'Welcome' card and place it in the offering plate.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Call to Worship

Adapted from Luke 2:8-14; Revelation 19:6b-7

Leader: 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,

People: *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.*

Leader: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

People: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!*

Leader: Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

All: *Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.*

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come

Words by Isaac Watts, Music by Lowell Mason

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love.

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Angels We Have Heard on High

Words: Traditional French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1862.

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?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

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Fourth Advent Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 Lighting of Advent Candles

Offering – Christmas Version

Words and music by Paul Baloche

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
while angels sang to lowly shepherds.
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar,
hoping to find the Child from Heaven;
Falling on their knees, they bowed before the humble,
Prince of Peace.

**I bring an offering of worship to my King;
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing;
Jesus, may You receive the honor that you're due;
O Lord, I bring an offering to You.**

The sun cannot compare to the glory of your love;
there is no shadow in Your presence;
no mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne,
before the Holy One of Heaven;
It's only by Your blood, and it's only through Your mercy,
Lord I come.

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Collection of Tithes & Offerings

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside, as he may prosper." 1 Corinthians 16:2

Reading of God's Word

Matthew 2:1-23; Isaiah 9:6

Preaching of the Word

Children aged 4 yrs – 3rd grade may now be dismissed for 'My Father's House'

**"A Tale of Two Kings"
Pastor Rich Good**

Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Belgian Confession, articles 18 & 19

Q: Christian, what do you believe about the Incarnation?

We confess that God fulfilled the promise which he had made to the early fathers by the mouth of his holy prophets when he sent his only and eternal Son into the world at the time set by him.

The Son took the "form of a servant" and was made in the "likeness of man," truly assuming a real human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin; being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. In this way he is truly our Immanuel—that is: "God with us."

We confess him to be true God and true man—true God in order to conquer death by his power, and true man that he might die for us in the weakness of his flesh.

The Lord's Supper

Harvest Fellowship welcomes all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation to partake in the Lord's Supper with us. Please note that we serve both wine and grape juice during Communion—the cups in the outer ring of the trays contain grape juice.

Light of the Stable

Words and music by Steve and Elizabeth Rhymer

Hail, hail to the newborn King
Let our voices sing Him our praises
Hail, hail to the guiding Light
That brought us tonight to our Savior

Halle, hallelujah

Halle, hallelujah

Halle, hallelujah

Halle, hallelujah

Come now, let it shine so bright
To the knowing Light of the stable
Kneel close to the Child so dear
Cast aside your fear and be thankful

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Benediction

SERMON TEXT

Matthew 2:1-23

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ 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.