



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 24, 2017

# 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.*"

*"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." Isaiah 9:6*

## Prelude

### Call to Worship

*Taken from Psalm 95: 1-2; 6-7*

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: *Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

People: *For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.*

### **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Words and Music by John F Wade

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;

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;

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## ***Good Christian Men Rejoice/Rejoice***

Words and Music by Aaron Shust

Good Christian men rejoice, with heart and soul and voice  
Give ye heed to what we say, Jesus Christ is born today  
Ox and lamb before Him bow, He is in the manger now  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today

**So rejoice, O rejoice, Hallelujah Christ has come  
So rejoice, lift your voice, sing Emmanuel with us  
O rejoice**

Good Christian men rejoice, with heart and soul and voice  
Now ye hear of endless bliss, Jesus Christ was born for this  
He has opened Heaven's door, and man is blessed forever more  
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this

Good Christian men rejoice, with heart and soul and voice  
Now ye need not fear the grave, Jesus Christ was born to save  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall  
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save

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## Advent Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 Lighting of Advent Candles.

### ***The First Noel***

Gathered by William B. Sandys, 1833

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!

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those Wise men three  
Full reverently upon their knee  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
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 Heaven and earth of nought  
And with his blood mankind has bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

Christmas Carol Music and lyric. Public Domain.

### ***It Came Upon The Midnight Clear***

written by Edmund Hamilton Sears in 1849

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King" –  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife,  
the world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled,  
two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not,  
the love song which they bring; –  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
and hear the angels sing!

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way,  
with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours,  
come swiftly on the wing; –  
Oh, rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever circling years,  
shall come the age of gold;  
When Peace shall over all the earth,  
its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song,  
which now the angels sing.

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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*

## Pastoral Prayer

## Reading of God's Word

### **Luke 2:21-38**

## Preaching of the Word

*Children aged 4 yrs – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade may now be dismissed for 'My Father's House'*

### **"Songs for the Savior: Simeon's Song"** **Pastor Rich Good**

#### **Special music: He is called Jesus**

#### **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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## Benediction

## SERMON TEXT

*Our Scripture reading this morning is taken from:*  
**Luke 2:21-38 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.<sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.<sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law,<sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,

"Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed<sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin,<sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.<sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.