



O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word, so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for Jesus' sake. Amen!

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

SONG SET *Michael Amidei, Infinite Grace band*

Please refer to the screens for the song lyrics.

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

Joy Has Dawned/Angels We Have Heard on High

INVOCATION *Pastor Duane Feldmann*

Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND FORGIVENESS



SONG Let There Be Light

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 31:15-17

Dave Hudson, Lector

Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children because they are no more."

Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country."

EPISTLE READING Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23

Now when [the wise men] 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." And he rose and took the child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt 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."

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. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "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."

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 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." And he rose and took the child and His mother and went to the land of Israel. 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. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

Let's get to know each other better!

Please fill out the Connect Card,

either by hand or with the QR code. Thank you!



CHILDREN'S CHAT

+ Children's Bulletins are available on the entrance table. +

OFFERING¹ AND PRAYER

For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give

¹*Mites Sunday (4th Sundays): A mite was a small coin of little value. Tiny amounts of money gathered together and given in faith and trust back to the Lord do "mite-y" acts in His kingdom!*

For a history and explanation of mite boxes, and to deposit your change for this vital mission, look for the Mite Box in the sanctuary Welcome Center. You may add your coins to this mission box at any time of the month!

SONG Agnus Dei/King of Kings

MESSAGE “Christmas Brought Freedom” text: Galatians 4:3-4

Rev. Duane Feldmann and his wife, Sue, are members of Shepherd. Pastor Feldmann was a campus pastor in New York. He also served congregations in Missouri, New York, and Illinois. Prior to his retirement, Pastor Feldmann served as a Hospital Chaplain in the Denver area.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE APOSTLES’ CREED

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen!

PRAYERS

In our December prayers, we Pray with an Open Heart for the lonely.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen!

GOD’S WORD OF BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

In this Divine Service, by the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share HISTORY!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG Joyful (The One Who Saves)

☩ **TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY!** ☩

Today’s Gospel Reading

The Slaughter of the Innocents is a sobering event in the early years of Jesus’ life. It highlights the lengths to which earthly forces may go to oppose God’s Anointed One.

This story is rooted in Old Testament prophecy as well as consistent with historical accounts of Herod’s atrocities: see Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:15. Herod’s rage is an example of a greater reality: worldly powers can—and often do—oppose the work of God. This hostility foreshadows the opposition Jesus faced throughout most of His ministry, culminating in His crucifixion.

Through these tragic circumstances, Scripture underscores God’s grand plan of redemption, weaving every detail into the fulfillment of the Messiah’s mission. Jesus is the Messiah, Immanuel, God-With-Us!



**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

~Philippians 4:6-7



**LORD, LAY SOME SOUL UPON MY HEART AND LOVE THAT SOUL THROUGH ME;
AND MAY I GLADLY DO MY PART TO WIN THAT SOUL FOR THEE. AMEN!**

CONNECT CARDS Guests and members, please:

- ◆ fill out a Connect card, or
- ◆ scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are on clipboards at the end of a row. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

