

MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 5, 2021, 10:30 A.M.

“Cease striving and know that I am God...” PSALM 46:10

Piano Prelude

Away in a Manger

arr. Raney

Welcome and Family Matters

Dr. Heath Rickmond, Pastor

*Congregational Call to Worship and Praise Hymn No. 89

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**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,
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav’n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O 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;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

(public domain)

*Invocation

Steve Reynolds

*The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Bethlehem Candle

Congregational Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-4

Leader:

The 2ND Advent candle is traditionally called the Bethlehem candle.
Bethlehem reminds us that God comes to us in the humble and simple.
Bethlehem was in the territory of one of the least influential tribes of Judah,
yet out of Bethlehem comes the King of Kings.
Bethlehem reminds us that Jesus was born in a small town;
that He was born in a stable;
that He was born to people of no fame.
Bethlehem is God’s statement that God does great and wonderful things
from humble beginnings.
Let’s read responsively.

Congregation:

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

Leader:

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

Congregation:

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
and they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

Leader:

Gracious Lord,
prepare our lives to receive your beloved Son
as he comes to us in humble, simple and unexpected ways.
Let us love the humble ones in our time and place.
Let us be humble witnesses of your power and await him with joy.
Amen.

*Hymn of Reflection No. 86

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 won'ring 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 giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear my hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

(public domain)

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.**

(© 1976 C.A. Music. Used by permission. CCLI #591288)

The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper

The Bread

The Cup

Song of Hope

Prepare Him Room

Kacie, Tiffany and Todd Crosswhite and Adult Choir

**O behold, the myst'ry now unfolds; See the star shine on the virgin foretold
Angels sing and light up the sky, hope rings out in a newborn's cry;
Swing wide, you ancient gates for Christ is born today!
Prepare Him room, prepare Him room; Let the King of glory enter in.**

**God with us, the promise has come to be; This, the one the prophets were longing to see.
In the darkness a blazing light, to the hungry the words of life;
His kingdom now is near for those with ears to hear.
Prepare Him room, prepare Him room; Let the King of glory enter in.**

**Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem, hear Him knock; Don't say there's no room in the inn.
Through the cradle, cross, and grave see the love of God displayed;
Now He's risen and He reigns. Praise the Name above all names!
Prepare Him room, prepare Him room; Let the King of glory enter in.**

Prepare Him room, prepare Him room; Let the King of glory enter in.
(© 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise/Sovereign Grace Worship. Used by permission. CCLI #591288)

*Scripture Reading

John 1:9-11

Sermon

Jesus is the Despised God

Pastor Rickmond

*Hymn No. 77

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.**

(public domain)

*Benediction

* Postlude

Pastor Rickmond

Todd Crosswhite

Todd Crosswhite, guitar

*congregation standing