

**Sunday, December 27, 2020 11:15 a.m.**

## **Gathering Song**

**Announcements** *Vicar Jason Christ, Director of Attract & Middle School Ministries*

**Welcome** *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.*

## **Preparing for Worship** *(Stand)*

Leader This is the day which the Lord has made;

People **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.** *Psalm 118:24*

Leader From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People **The name of the Lord is to be praised.** *Psalm 113:3*

Leader Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

People **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**  
*Psalm 84:10*

Leader Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

People **Teach me Your paths.** *Psalm 25:4*

Leader Sanctify us in Your truth.

People **Your Word is truth.** *John 17:17*

Leader From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People **The name of the Lord is to be praised.** *Psalm 113:3*

People **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

Leader Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People **O most merciful God, You gave Your Son, born this Christmas, to die for us. Have mercy on us. Please forgive all our sins. Send Your Holy Spirit to draw us closer to You, that we may do Your will and obey Your Word, until by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.** *(silence for personal confession)*

Leader Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

People **Amen.**

## Opening Songs

### *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

*Verse 1*

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

*Chorus*

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

*Verse 2*

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

*Bridge*

Emmanuel, God is here with us!

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### *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

*Chorus*

Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

*Verse 1*

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light

*Verse 2*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed the Savior's birth

*Verse 3*

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

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## Scripture Readings *(Sit)*

Reader God speaks to us through the Old Testament: Habakkuk 1:1-11

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted. “Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves. Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it. Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!”

Reader God speaks to us through the New Testament: 1 John 5:5-15

Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: John 1:24–34

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

**Children’s Message** *Sue Steege, Director of Transformation Ministries*

**Message** *Does God Care?* *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.*

**Christmas Creed** *(Stand)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, and adored by the wise men; who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas and by whose work in my heart I am led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love and live under Him as my King both now and forevermore. Amen.**

**Offering** Give at [FTGives.com](http://FTGives.com) or text "Give" to 716-710-8800.

### ***What Child Is This?***

*Verse 1*

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

*Verse 2*

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christian fear for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading  
Nails spear shall pierce Him through  
The cross be borne for me for you  
Hail hail the Word made flesh  
The Babe the Son of Mary

*Verse 3*

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 the song on high  
The Virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy joy for Christ is born  
The Babe the Son of Mary

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### **Prayers** *(Sit)*

#### **The Lord's Prayer** *(Stand)*

**People** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

### **Closing Song** *Joy to the World*

*Verse 1*

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

*Verse 2*

Joy to the earth 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

*Verse 3*

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

*Verse 4*

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

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### **Blessing and Sending Music**

*Unless noted otherwise, scripture passage came from the English Standard Version.*

*Altar Flowers presented to the glory of God in memory of family and friends by Terri and John Mecca.*