

**Good Shepherd Church**  
**A Christmas Sunday Worship Guide**

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

**Greeting**

Greetings, favored ones, the Lord is with you.  
His name is Immanuel, God with us.  
Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Call to Worship:**

When God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,  
*"Let all God's angels worship him."*  
About the Son he says,  
*"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,*  
and the scepter of your kingdom is a righteous scepter.  
Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness:  
*God was manifested in the flesh,*  
*Justified in the Spirit,*  
*Seen by angels,*  
*Preached among the Gentiles,*  
*Believed on in the world,*  
*Received up in glory.*  
Then every tongue in one accord, say that Jesus the Messiah is Lord,  
while praising God the Father.

**Hymn- Christians Awake! Salute the Happy Morn**

Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn  
on which the Savior of the world was born;  
rise to adore the mystery of love  
which hosts of angels chanted from above!  
With them the joyful tidings first begun  
of God incarnate and the virgin's Son.

2 First, to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
who heard the herald angel's voice: 'Behold,  
I bring good news of your Messiah's birth  
to you and all the nations here on earth!  
This day has God fulfilled his promised word;  
this day is born a Savior, Christ the Lord!'

3 To Bethlehem these eager shepherds ran  
to see the wonder of our God made man;  
they found, with Joseph and the holy maid,  
Jesus, the Savior, in a manger laid.  
Amazed, with joy this story they proclaim,  
the first apostles of his infant fame.

4 Let us, like those good shepherds, now employ  
our grateful voices to declare the joy:  
trace we the babe, who has redeemed our loss,  
from this poor manger to his bitter cross;  
treading his steps, assisted by his grace,  
by faith again we see the Savior's face.

5 Glory to God! The skies are singing still,  
peace on the earth to people of good will!  
Christ, who was born on this most happy day,  
round all the earth his glory shall display.  
Saved by his love, unceasing we shall sing  
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

Jubilate Hymns version of 'Christians, awake, salute the  
happy morn', John Byrom  
© Jubilate Hymns Ltd  
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**Invocation**

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in holy Scripture the narrative of the fulfillment of the promise of God from the first days of our disobedience [in Adam] unto the glorious redemption brought us by the holy Son Jesus.

## Prayer

The angels sang when Christ was born, and so must we. With thankful hearts we celebrate his nativity and lift our voices in joyful song; with the heavenly host we cry, Glory to God in the highest! Accept, O Lord God, our worship, and as we hear again the Christmas story in word and song, show us something more of your great love in Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen. (Frank Colquhoun)

Our Story begins before the conception and birth of Jesus by Mary in ancient Palestine. Unlike all other humans this one existed before he was born. Hear these words from John.

## John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation. John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Hymn

## Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the Source, the Ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed  
When the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bare the Savior of our race,  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,

First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

3. O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

4. This is He whom Heaven-taught singers  
Sang of old with one accord;  
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the Long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore.

### Prayer

We thank you, Lord God, for your word spoken of old through prophets and apostles and recorded for us in holy scripture; and most of all for your final Word spoken to us in your Son Jesus Christ, who was made flesh for us people and for our salvation. Grant that through the written word we may behold the glory of the incarnate Word, who is now exalted to the right hand of the Majesty on high, and to whom we ascribe all praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. [Based on Hebrews 1:1-3]

### **How then did this great mystery take place?**

Hear the words of the Prophet Malachi:

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, behold, he comes!” says Yahweh of Armies. Malachi 3:1

### **The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold (Luke 1:5-23)**

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years.”

The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.”

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

## **Some Six months later in Nazareth**

### **The Birth of Jesus Foretold, The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)**

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

## **Hymn- The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame,  
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"  
Most highly favored lady, gloria!

2 "For now a blessed mother you shall be,  
all generations praise continually,  
your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,"  
Most highly favored Mary, gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.  
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored Mary, gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
Most highly favored Mary, gloria!

### **Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)**

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

### **Mary's Song, The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-56)**

And Mary said:

*"My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is his name.  
His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;*

*he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
even as he said to our fathers.”*

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

## **Hymn- Song of Mary**

My soul doth magnify the Lord;  
my spirit doth rejoice in God,  
for he, my Savior, did in grace  
his servant's humble state regard.

2. Behold, all generations hence  
my blessedness will e'er proclaim.  
The Mighty One hath done great things  
for me, and holy is his name.

3. For generations, fearing him,  
his mercy will on them abide.  
His mighty arm displays his strength;  
he scatters those who dwell in pride.

After 3 months Mary returns to Nazareth and John the Baptist is born

4. He cast the mighty from their thrones,  
and lifted those of low estate.  
The hungry he hath filled with good;  
the rich he empty sent away.

5. He helped his servant Israel,  
in mem'ry of his mercy sure,  
as told our father Abraham,  
and to his seed forevermore.

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LM Tune- Tune Name: Puer Nobis Nascitur

## **The Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-66)**

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."

They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

## **Zechariah's Song (Luke 1:67-80)**

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

*"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come and has redeemed his people.  
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David  
(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),  
salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us—*

*to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear  
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”*

And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.

### **Hymn- Blessed Be the God of Israel**

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,  
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

2 Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;  
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

3 On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,  
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;  
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Author- Hal Hopson - meter-676D  
Merle's Tune

Meanwhile after Mary returns to Nazareth, Joseph is Troubled

### **An Angel Appears to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “*Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” [Isaiah 7:14] — which means, “God with us.”

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. **And he gave him the name Jesus.**

### Hymn-"Jesus, Name of Wondrous Love"

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
name all other names above,  
unto which must ev'ry knee  
bow in deep humility.

2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,  
to the maiden mother told,  
kneeling in her lowly cell,  
by the angel Gabriel.

3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth  
to the fallen here on earth  
for the promise that it gave,  
"Jesus shall his people save."

4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,  
given to the Holy Child  
when the cup of human woe  
first he tasted here below.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
under all the mighty heav'n  
whereby those to sin enslaved  
burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
human name of God above;  
pleading only this, we flee  
helpless, O our God, to thee.

Words-William Howe Tune- Carlson or Gott.Sei Dank

### Jesus' Legal Lineage Through Joseph (Matthew 1:1-17)

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,  
Isaac the father of Jacob,  
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,  
Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,  
Perez the father of Hezron,  
Hezron the father of Ram,  
Ram the father of Amminadab,  
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of Salmon,  
Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,  
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,  
Obed the father of Jesse,  
and Jesse the father of King David.  
*David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,*  
Solomon the father of Rehoboam,  
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,  
Abijah the father of Asa,  
Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,  
Jehoram the father of Uzziah,  
Uzziah the father of Jotham,  
Jotham the father of Ahaz,  
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,  
Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,  
Manasseh the father of Amon,  
Amon the father of Josiah,  
and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.  
After the exile to Babylon:  
Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,  
Abiud the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor,  
Azor the father of Zadok,  
Zadok the father of Akim,  
Akim the father of Eliud,  
Eliud the father of Eleazar,  
Eleazar the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob,

***and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.***

Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ

### **Jesus' Natural Lineage Through Mary (Luke 3:23-37)**

***Now Jesus . . . was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat,***

the son of Levi, the son of Melki,  
the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph,  
the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos,  
the son of Nahum, the son of Esli,  
the son of Naggai, the son of Maath,  
the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein,  
the son of Josech, the son of Joda,  
the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa,  
the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel,  
the son of Neri, the son of Melki,  
the son of Addi, the son of Cosam,  
the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,  
the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer,  
the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat,  
the son of Levi, the son of Simeon,  
the son of Judah, the son of Joseph,  
the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim,  
the son of Melea, the son of Menna,  
the son of Mattatha, *the son of Nathan,*  
*the son of David, the son of Jesse,*  
the son of Obed, the son of Boaz,  
the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,  
the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram,  
the son of Hezron, the son of Perez,  
the son of Judah, the son of Jacob,  
the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham,  
the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,  
the son of Serug, the son of Reu,  
the son of Peleg, the son of Eber,  
the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan,  
the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem,  
the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,  
the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch,  
the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel,  
the son of Kenan, the son of Enosh,  
the son of Seth, the son of Adam,  
the son of God.



## **The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7)**

In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

## **Hymn- 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.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

3 How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

4 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!  
Amen.

Tune- St Louis  
Author- Phillip Brooks

## **The Shepherds and the Angels (Luke 2:8-20)**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## Hymn- **While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down  
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not,' said he - for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind -  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind:

3. 'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.  
And this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands  
and in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
goodwill henceforth from highest heaven  
begin and never cease!'

Author-Nahum Tate Tune- Christmas

### **Scripture: John 1:1-5, 14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it

<sup>14</sup> 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. ESV

**Message: "The Eternal Son Becomes Flesh"**

**by Jeff Gregory**

## Hymn- 359 **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!'  
Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King!'*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus our Immanuel.

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail, the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild, he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die;  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

4. Come, Desire of nations, come;  
make in us your humble home!  
Rise, the woman's conquering Seed,  
bruise in us the serpent's head.  
Adam's likeness now efface;  
stamp your image in its place;  
second Adam from above,  
give us life; impart your love.

Words- Charles Wesley

### **Let us confess our common Christian faith with a section from the Nicene Creed:**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible;  
And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

### **Christmas Communion Service**

As is our custom on every Lord's Day, no less during this Christmas season, we gather together to remember our Lord's death for our sins and his rising for our justification. By his Spirit the Lord Jesus is our host at this table and he is present to assure us of his love, forgiveness, and ongoing intercessory ministry in our behalf. Let us now draw near to him. **Amen.**

### Words of Institution

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ: The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes.

With thanksgiving, let us offer God our grateful praise. **Amen!**

—based on 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honor be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, ever living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,

our Savior Jesus Christ,

who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,

was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,

and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh

you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,

to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible

and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise.

### *Acclamation of Praise*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

—based on Psalm 118:26; Isaiah 6:3

### *Thanksgiving for the Work of Christ*

We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until he comes again.

### *Memorial Acclamation*

Therefore, we proclaim our faith as signified and proclaimed in this gospel ordinance:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ ascended,**

**Christ will come again!**

### ***Prayer for the Work of the Spirit***

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom. **Amen.**

### ***The Disciples' Model Prayer***

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Your name be honored as holy.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.  
[For Yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.]

### **Acclamation**

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.**

Therefore, let us keep the feast!

The gifts of God for the people of God!

### ***Communion Hymn: "Gathered 'Round Your Table"***

*Gathered round Your table on this holy eve,  
Viewing Bethlehem's stable we rejoice and grieve;  
Joy to see You lying in Your manger bed,  
Weep to see You dying in our sinful stead.*

*Prince of Glory, gracing Heav'n ere time began,  
Now for us embracing death as Son of Man;  
By Your birth so lowly, by Your love so true,  
By Your cross most holy, Lord, we worship You!*

*Bethlehem's Incarnation, Calvary's bitter cross,  
Wrought for us salvation by Your pain and loss;  
Now we fall before You in this holy place,  
Prostrate we adore You, for Your gift of grace.*

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

#### ***Communion Hymn:***

*With profoundest wonder we Your body take-  
Laid in manger yonder, broken for our sake:  
Hushed in adoration we approach the cup-  
Bethlehem's pure oblation freely offered up.*

*Christmas Babe so tender, Lamb who bore our blame,  
How shall sinners render praises due Your name?  
Do Your own good pleasure in the lives we bring;  
In Your ransomed treasure reign forever King!*  
Words: Margaret Clarkson, 1986 © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.  
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[*pouring the cup*] The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

Take and drink with thanksgiving for Christ's saving work.

### **Thanksgiving Prayer**

Close

### **Collect Prayer for Christmas Day**

*Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon himself and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

### **Hymn- Once in Royal David's City**

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 And thro' all his wondrous childhood  
he would honor and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden  
in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,  
thro' his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heav'n above:  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

5 Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

Words- Cecil Alexander

**Benediction-** *May the grace of the Lord Jesus the Messiah, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you!* 2 Corinthians 13:14 ISV

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