

Christmas Day
25 December 2023
Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
* : Congregation stands



APPROACH

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

L: How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

All: How does a weary world combat cruelty?

L: How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

All: We do all these things with God's help. For today, a child is born in Bethlehem.

L: God is near.

All: Love has drawn close.

L: Rejoice!

All: For God loves this weary world.

L: Today, we light the Christ Candle.

All: Thanks be to God!

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

All: From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,

All: the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*** HYMN "O Come All Ye Faithful"**

– Composer: J. F. Wade, Trans: F. Oakley

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 heav'n above!
Glory to God,
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.

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THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

* **HYMN** "Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

– Music: Mendelssohn, Words: C. Wesley

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heaven-born
Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"
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SCRIPTURE READING

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet.

A light to our path.

John 1 : 1 – 14 (N.T.)

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

KUC SINGERS “Christmas Canon of Peace”

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE “The Work of Christmas Begins”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the Gospel begun in Bethlehem. I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, but who transformed the place by his very presence. I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons with hungry hearts.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, who looked at persons and made them see what god's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of god.

I confess my ever-lasting need of god: the need of forgiveness for my selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold. I believe in god who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the Son of God, born in Bethlehem, for me and for the world. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND “Emmanuel Emmanuel”

– Composed: B McGee

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His Name is called Emmanuel
God with us,
Revealed in us
His Name is called Emmanuel.
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OFFERTORY – UCCPHK Choir

"Shepherds, Tell the News"

– Words by: Susan Naus Dengler Music by: Lee Dengler

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

HYMN “You are Holy”

– Composer: Per Harling

You are holy, you are whole.
You are always ever more than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near;
blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.

*You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present,
let the cosmos praise you Lord!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, our Lord!*

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INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: For the weary world:

All: We thank you for ensuring us joy and hope in Christ!

L: For the poverty of Mary & Joseph:

All: We thank you for making us rich in Christ!

L: For the vulnerable baby Jesus

All: We thank you for giving us love and peace in Christ!

L: For your birth on earth the Holy One:

All: We thank you for making us Divine in Your Oneness!

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might

Heaven and Earth are full of Your Glory;

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**God of angel choruses
and teenage mothers,
there are a million other places we could be,**

**but today we wanted to be here.
Today, we needed to be here—
online and in person,
worshiping together
on this joy-filled Christmas Day.**

**For when we gather around this Table
we remember the ways that you always make room for us.**

**You are always pulling up chairs,
welcoming the children, the tax collectors, and the outcast.
At your dinner party, no one gets turned away.**

**Help us to carry that inclusive spirit into the rest of our
lives, for we know that love like that is what turns
weariness into joy.
With grateful hearts we pray, Amen.**

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “Joy to the World”

– Music: G F Handel, Words: I Watts

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

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 --||--

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

**To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.**

Go in hope, peace, joy, and love...to spread the beauty of
Christmas.

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TODAY

Christmas Day – 25 December

Liturgist / Celebrant: Phyllis Wong

Preacher: Maggie Mathieson

Co-Celebrants: Grace Bok, Joram Calimutan

Pianist: Katie Ho

Intercessor: Joram Calimutan

Lector: Caren Lai

I.T. Team: Jen Pang, Bervinder Kaur

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

