

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Advent Reading

Valerie and Cole Haas

*Call to Worship

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

P: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

L: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

P: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

L: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

P: Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. AMEN.

*Hymn of Praise *Joyful, joyful, We Adore You* Celebration Hymnal No. 271

*Prayer of Invocation

Father God, in these times of tumult; remind us of the good news of the incarnation, that we are redeemed and saved. Fill our hearts with joy that we might be a light in the darkness. Today we rejoice in your goodness, we celebrate the birth of your Son; our hearts dance with gratitude. We pray in the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9-17

New Testament Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

Sermon *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Down in My Heart*

Brian Sampson

Hymn of Reflection

Joy to the World!

Celebration Hymnal No. 270

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:

*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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.*

*Hymn of Going Forth

Therefore, the Redeemed of the Lord

Celebration Hymnal No. 761

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

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

Postlude

*We invite you to stand if you are able.

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9-17

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

¹³For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will arouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword.

¹⁴Then the Lord will appear over them, and his arrow go forth like lightning; the Lord God will sound the trumpet and march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.

¹⁵The Lord of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour and tread down the slingers; they shall drink their blood like wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar.

¹⁶On that day the Lord their God will save them for they are the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land.

¹⁷For what goodness and beauty are his! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

New Testament Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

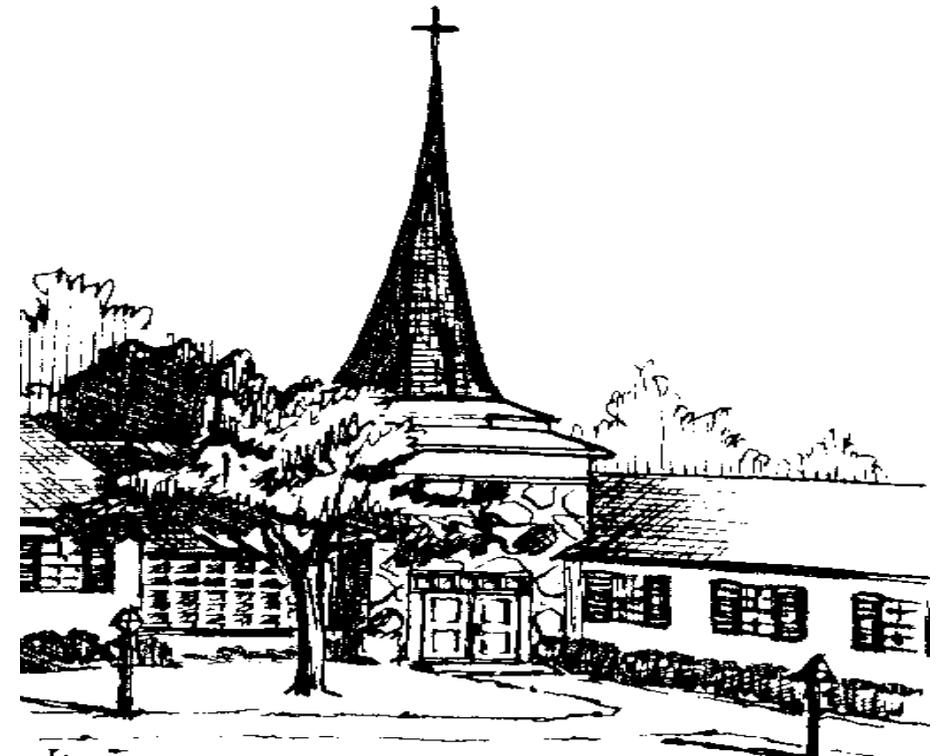
2In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

WELCOME!



Church Covenant

We are banded together as a Christian Church to maintain the worship of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer; to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to develop in ourselves and others a consciousness of our relationship and duties to God and each other; to create a spirit of love for truth, a passion for righteousness and enthusiasm for service; to respect and protect all of God's creation. To this end we pledge our loyalty to Christ and covenant with God and with each other to strive to express God's spirit in our individual and corporate life; to live together as Christians and to submit ourselves to the government of this church, working, giving, praying for its increase, purity and peace, seeking in every way to make it a power for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

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