

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

*Call to Worship

Leader: We waited.

People: And imagined a savior.

Leader: We imagined power.

People: One like the world but stronger and on our side.

Leader: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

People: We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

Leader: We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

People: We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.

Leader: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

All: Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!

*Hymn of Praise

Celebration Hymnal No. 259

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*Prayer of Invocation

O God of wondrous grace and holy love, we give you thanks and praise that you entered into our world to share our messy humanity. In this holy season we are quick to speak and sing of your majesty, mystery, glory and might. Yet this season reminds us that you are not a distant God, but come close to us in Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. He is Emmanuel, God with us, and in and through him you are with us in all the comings and goings, the beings and doings, of our days. Come to us this morning as we Worship, fellowship, and study your Word. This we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scriptures

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

*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.

Special Music

Ann Traver Saadah

Sermon

Overshadowed by God

Brian Sampson

Hymn of Reflection

One Small Child

Celebration Hymnal No. 280

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

I Extol You

Celebration Hymnal No. 248

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Emmanuel

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

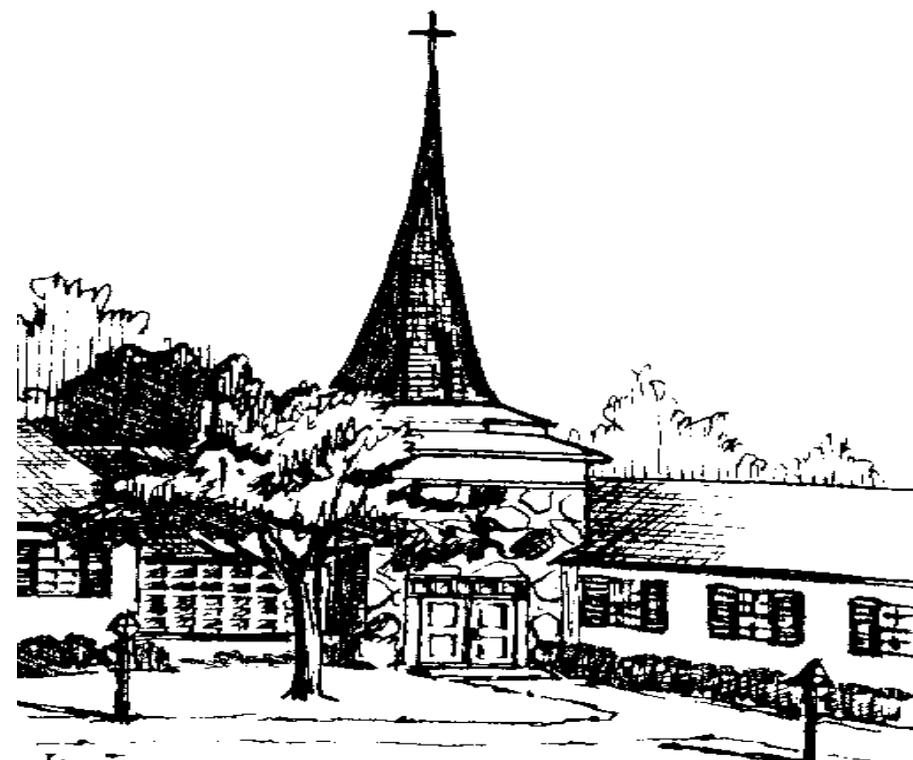
Postlude

*We invite you to stand if you are able.

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.

WELCOME!



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