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December 24, 2023



Christmas Eve

**WELCOME, GUESTS!!!** We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***\*\*Please Stand\*\****

### INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit

**Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN:

**#23**

**O COME, O COME EMMANUEL**



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's  
3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your  
4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,  
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 And close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
 Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

## INTRODUCTION

### Pastor Emmons

Have you ever heard the phrase “A picture paints a thousand words”? Sometimes things that are difficult to explain verbally can be better understood when depicted visually. Jesus often spoke using parables. These stories share spiritual truths using pictures of familiar things in our world: a mustard seed, a rebellious child, a wedding banquet, a lost coin. In the same way, God gives illustrations throughout Scripture that point to this central message of his Holy Word: He promised and sent us a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Let’s gaze with wonder at some of those illustrations and renew our hearts and joy through our Savior Jesus.

## FROM PROBLEM TO PROMISE

### Pastor Emmons

In the first book of the Bible—Genesis, chapter 3—we’re told that God created two perfect humans called Adam and Eve. Not long after they were created, they disobeyed God’s command and brought the corruption of sin into the world. When God gave the first promise of the Savior, he spoke to Satan the tempter, who was in the form of a serpent.

### GENESIS 3: 15

***I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.***

### Pastor Emmons

The promised Savior would be born from mankind. God paints a picture of this offspring of Eve crushing Satan and all his power underfoot. But the serpent is not only a picture of the problem

of sin. Later in the Old Testament there was a time when the Israelites were plagued by poisonous snakes and dying from their bites because of their rebellious sin. God commanded Moses to make a snake of bronze and hang it on a pole before the people. God promised that all who looked at the bronze snake would be spared from death. Jesus recalls this event in the book of John chapter 3. He shows how it points to the time when he himself would be hung on a cross to save all people.

### JOHN 3: 14 – 17

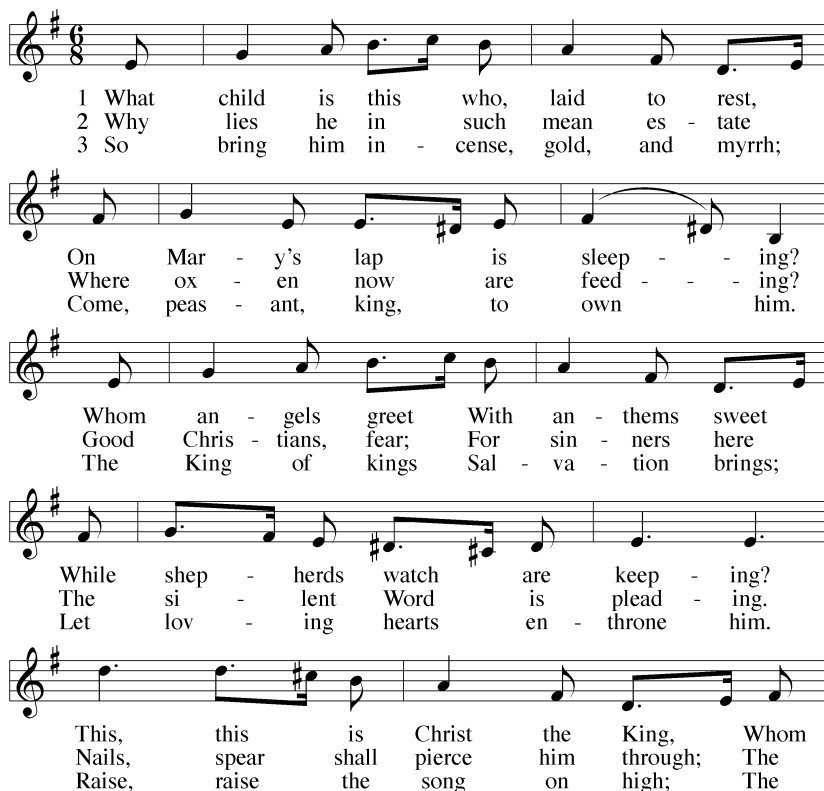
***“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.***

#### HYMN:

#67

#### WHAT CHILD IS THIS



1 What child is this who, laid to rest,  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh;

On Mar - y's lap is sleep - - ing?  
Where ox - en now are feed - - ing?  
Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet  
Good Chris - tians, fear; For sin - ners here  
The King of kings Sal - va - tion brings;

While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
The si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, Nails, this is Christ the King, Whom  
Raise, raise shall the pierce him through; The  
The song on high; The

shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.  
cross he'll bear for me, for you.  
vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,

The babe, the Son of Mar - y!  
The babe, the Son of Mar - y!  
The babe, the Son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.  
Tune: GREENSLEEVES (87 87 68 67) English ballad, 16th century.

## FROM SACRIFICE TO SUBSTITUTE

### Pastor Emmons

After the fall, Adam and Eve’s family grew and began to fill the earth. Many years later God appeared to their descendent Abraham and promised him that his descendants would number as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. God also promised that the Savior would be born from his family. But then a little while later God asked Abraham to do the unthinkable, something that seemed to contradict God’s earlier promise to Abraham. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac.

### GENESIS 22: 6 – 8

***Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together. Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father?” He said, “I am here, my son.” He said, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them went on together.***

### Pastor Emmons

Isaac did not die that day. As Abraham was about to sacrifice his son, God stopped him and provided a ram to substitute for Isaac. Each one of us could never make sufficient sacrifice for the sins we commit. Staring eternal death in the face, we see in 1 Peter that God himself provides his Son to pay the necessary sacrifice for our salvation. Jesus’ perfect life provides the

perfection we are unable to achieve on our own. Jesus' suffering on the cross at Calvary pays the price for our every sin. As God the Father rightfully raises his hand to kill each of us for our sins, he stops himself and provides his own Son as our substitute to die in our place. Listen as the apostle Peter explains:

## 1 PETER 2: 22 – 24

***He did not commit a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When he was insulted, he did not insult in return. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed.***

### HYMN:

#41

LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his  
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's  
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our  
5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And  
in - fant small; And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who  
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His  
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.  
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

## FROM LAMB TO LOVING SACRIFICE

### Pastor Emmons

The grandson of Abraham was Jacob, whom God gave the name Israel. His descendants became the nation of Israel, and they were enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years. God used the nation's exodus from Egypt as yet another illustration that points to our Savior, the Lamb of God. On the night before the Israelites were freed from slavery, God gave the following instructions to Moses:

### EXODUS 12: 1 – 3, 6, 7, 12, 13

*The Lord told Moses and Aaron this in the land of Egypt: This month is to be the beginning of your calendar. It is to be the first month of the year for you. Tell the entire Israelite community that on the tenth day of this month, they are to take a lamb or a young goat for themselves, according to their fathers' households, one lamb per household.*

*You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month. Then the whole assembly of the Israelite community is to slaughter the lambs at sunset. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat the lamb.*

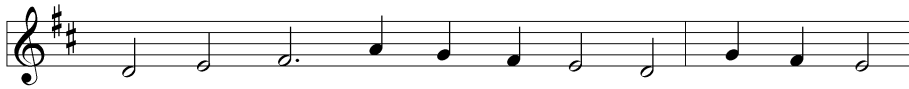
*For on that night I will pass through the land of Egypt. I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both people and animals. Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. There will be no plague among you to destroy you when I strike down the land of Egypt.*

### Pastor Emmons

The blood of the slaughtered lamb protected the Israelites from the righteous wrath of God. Centuries later John the Baptist, who was Jesus' cousin, pointed to Jesus as the perfect sacrifice whose blood would cleanse the world from their sins. Recalling the final plague in Egypt and the blood of the lamb by which God's people were saved from death, John points to Jesus with these words:

### JOHN 1: 29

*The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

**HYMN:****ONCE AGAIN MY HEART REJOICES****#37****Vs 1 – 5**

1 Once a - gain my heart re - joic - es As I hear  
 2 Hear! The con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe,  
 3 Should we still fear God's dis - pleas - ure, Who, to save,  
 4 God be - comes the vic - tim, tak - ing Man-kind's place  
 5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls



Far and near Sweet - est an - gel voic - es.  
 Sin and woe, Death and hell are bro - ken!"  
 Free - ly gave His most pre - cious treas - ure?  
 By his grace, Full a - tone - ment mak - ing.  
 One and all, "You are safe from dan - ger.



"Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing Till the air  
 God is man, man to de - liv - er, And the Son  
 To re - deem us he has giv - en His own Son  
 For our life his own he ten - ders, And his grace  
 Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you You are freed;



Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
 Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.  
 From the throne Of his might in heav - en.  
 All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.  
 All you need I will sure - ly give you."

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr. adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: FRÖHLICH SOLL MEIN HERZE SPRINGEN (8 33 6 D) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

**FROM BRANCH TO BETHLEHEM****Pastor Emmons**

After delivering his people from slavery in Egypt, God led the nation of Israel to the land of Canaan, which had been promised to Abraham. Here, Israel would become a great nation. They would be ruled one day by King David. The prophet Isaiah tells us that King David's father, Jesse, would be the stump from which the branch of the promised Savior would come forth.



## HYMN:

#65

## O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -

still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And  
 gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The  
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To  
 scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And

dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.  
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The

ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of  
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To  
 in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -  
 great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -

all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 God the King And peace to all the earth.  
 ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93, abr., alt.  
 Tune: ST. LOUIS (86 446 76 446) Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

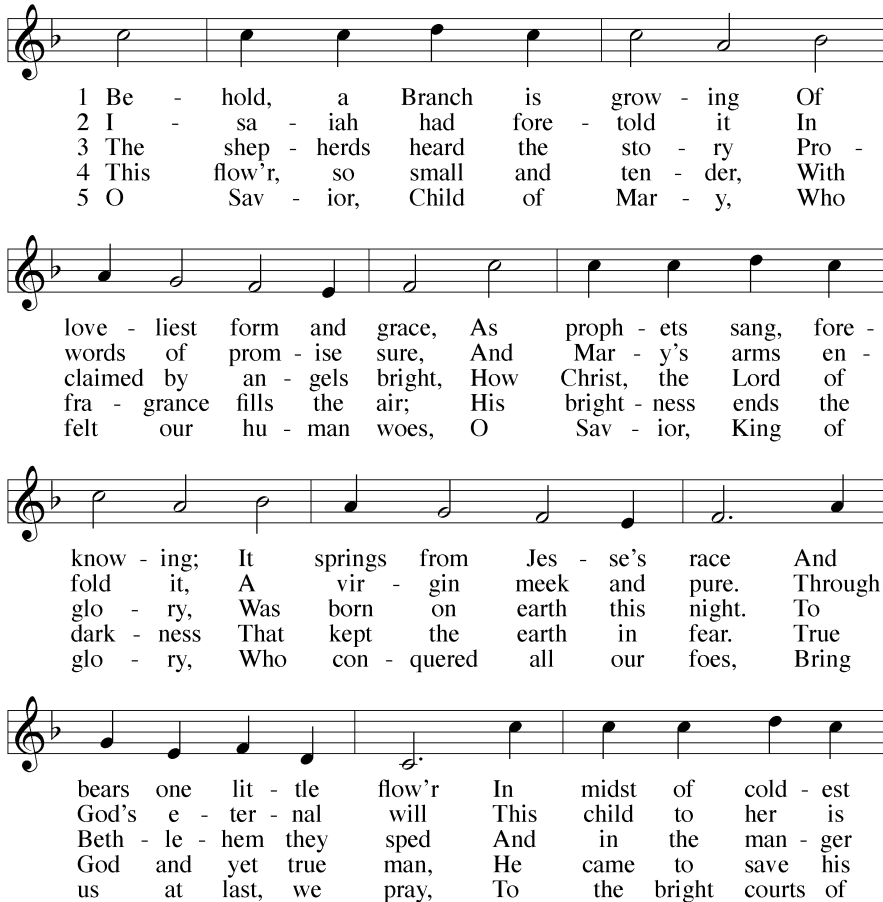
## ISAIAH 11: 1 – 3

***A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He will be delighted with the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears.***

### HYMN:

#35

#### BEHOLD A BRANCH IS GROWING



1 Be - hold, a Branch is grow - ing Of  
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it In  
3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry Pro -  
4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, With  
5 O Sav - ior, Child of Mar - y, Who

love - liest form and grace, As proph - ets sang, fore -  
words of prom - ise sure, And Mar - y's arms en -  
claimed by an - gels bright, How Christ, the Lord of -  
fra - grance fills the air; His bright - ness ends the  
felt our hu - man woes, O Sav - ior, King of

know - ing; It springs from Jes - se's race And  
fold it, A vir - gin meek and pure. Through  
glo - ry, Was born on earth this night. To  
dark - ness That kept the earth in fear. True  
glo - ry, Who con - quered all our foes, Bring

bears one lit - tle flow'r In midst of cold - est  
God's e - ter - nal will This child to her is  
Beth - le - hem they sped And in the man - ger  
God and yet true man, He came to save his  
us at last, we pray, To the bright courts of



win - ter, At deep - est mid - night hour.  
giv - en At mid - night calm and still.  
found him, As an - gel her - alds said.  
peo - ple From earth's dark night of sin.  
heav - en And to the end - less day.

Text: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599, abr.; tr. composite.  
Tune: ES IST EIN ROS (76 76 676) *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599.

## Pastor Emmons

The prophet Micah points to the Messiah who would be born in Bethlehem, the town of King David. Please join in reading this prophecy from Micah chapter 5 verses 2 through 4 responsively:

### MICAH 5: 2 – 4

Ladies: ***But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,***

Men: ***from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.***

Ladies: ***Therefore, the Lord will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.***

Men: ***Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.***

All: ***He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.***

# HYMN:

#35

## OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed  
 3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,  
 5 Christ, to you, with the Fa - ther,

Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is  
 When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the  
 Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the  
 An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -  
 And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and

Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the  
 Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior  
 Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their  
 min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our  
 chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing

end - ing he, Of the things that are, that  
 of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
 faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -  
 God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall  
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert  
 min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -

see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, st. 1–4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, st. 5, alt.  
 Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (87 87 877) Plainsong melody, 13th century.

## FROM MAJESTY TO MANGER

### Pastor Emmons

Finally, the time came for the Savior to come to earth, for the Messiah to be made man, for the promised and prophesied one to be born and placed in a manger. Isaiah clearly shows us this is no ordinary baby. He came from the majesty of heaven and became like us—human, born of a virgin. He is God with us: Immanuel.

### ISAIAH 9: 6

***For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

### HYMN

#68

#### AWAY IN THE MANGER

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.  
And take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text: *Little Children's Book*, Philadelphia, 1885, st. 1-2; *Vineyard Songs*, Louisville, 1892, st. 3.  
Tune: CRADLE SONG (11 11 11 11) William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921.

## Pastor Emmons

In Luke chapter 2, angels proclaimed the arrival of the long-awaited Savior of the world to shepherds watching their sheep just outside of Bethlehem. The message and the messengers were a spectacular sight and sound, but the Messiah would be found seemingly helpless and in a lowly place.

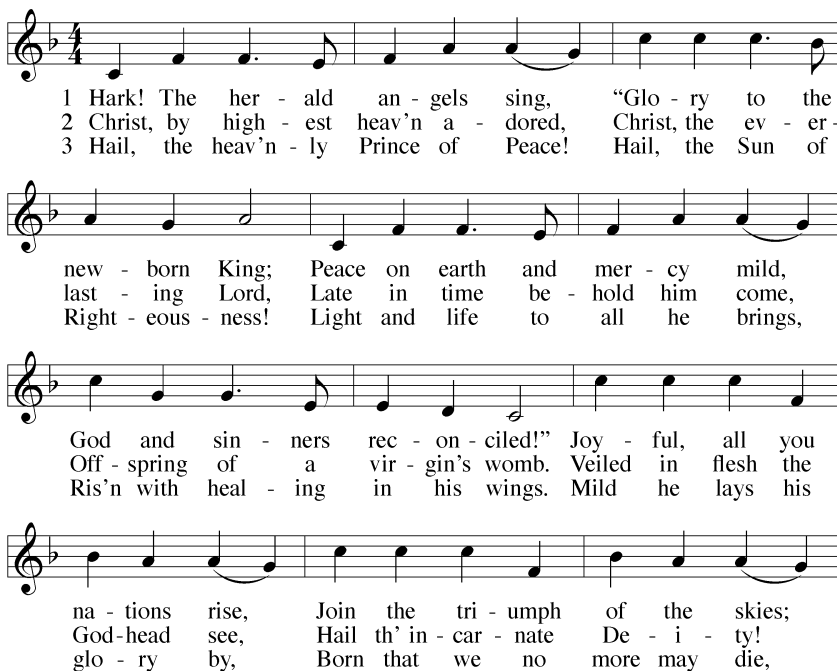
### LUKE 2: 10 – 14

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind." When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.*

## HYMN:

#61

HARK THE HERALD ANGLES SING



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -  
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of  
new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,  
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,  
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,  
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you  
Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his  
na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
God-head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

*Refrain*

born in Beth - le - hem!"  
our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald  
give us sec - ond birth.

an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, abr., alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN (77 77 D with Refrain) Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47, alt.

## FROM JONAH TO ETERNAL JOY

### Pastor Emmons

The birth of the Savior would be meaningless had he not completed the work he came into the world to accomplish. Jesus himself pointed to his own death and resurrection when he talked with the Pharisees and the teachers of the law about the sign of Jonah.

### MATTHEW 12: 40

***For just as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.***

### Pastor Emmons

The final illustration of Immanuel points to his death and victory over the grave. Jesus completed the work of salvation when he rose from the dead. He crushed the power of Satan under foot and proclaimed victory over death—not just for himself but for all who place their trust in him. Paul writes to the believers in Corinth to assure them that through the resurrection of Christ Jesus, they too will live eternally with him in heaven.

### 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 20 – 22

***But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came by a man, the resurrection of the dead also is going to come by a man. For as in Adam they all die, so also in Christ they all will be made alive.***

## Pastor Emmons

From beginning to end and everywhere in between, God illustrates pictures for us that point us to his Son, Jesus—the King of kings who came down from heaven and was born in a lowly manger. He became one of us. He lived perfectly in our place. He suffered the consequence of our sin. He completed the work of our salvation in his resurrection. Because of all this, we are guaranteed victory over sin and death and promised eternal joy in heaven, where we will join to sing the praises of the King of kings forever.

### HYMN:

#34

NOW SING WE NOW REJOICE



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our  
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to  
3 Now through his Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di -  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly

voice; He from whom joy stream - eth Poor  
thee. Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O  
vine. Death o'er us had reign - ed Through  
ground? Where the an - gels sing - ing With

in a man - ger lies; Not so bright - ly  
pure and ho - ly Child; Through thy grace and  
sin and van - i - ty; He for us ob -  
all his saints u - nite, Sweet - est prais - es

beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.  
bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.





Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
Draw me un - to thee!      Draw me un - to thee!  
May we praise him there!      May we praise him there!  
Oh, that we were there!      Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.  
Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO (66 66 66 55) German melody, 14th century, alt.

**OFFERING – PAUL TELLS US IN 2 CORINTHIANS 9: 7: “EACH ONE SHOULD GIVE AS HE HAS DETERMINED IN HIS HEART, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER PRESSURE, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.” THIS SERVICE IS OUR GIFT TO OUR GUESTS; SHOULD YOU FEEL OBLIGED TO GIVE, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.**

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

## **CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER**

Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

**On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

**Bless us with childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**

You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

**May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**

You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full like that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace

on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord.  
Amen

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The grace of our Lord Jesus (†) Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.


Amen

CLOSING HYMN:


#60

SILENT NIGHT


*\*\*Individual candles will be lit before the hymn\*\**




1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is  
2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds  
3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of



calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin  
quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from  
God, love's pure light Ra - dian beams from



moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so  
heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,  
thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -



ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.  
Tune: STILLE NACHT (Irregular) Franz X. Gruber, 1787–1863, alt.

**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

## WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** – Bible study and Sunday School are on Sunday from 9 to 10 am. We are studying the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's missionary journeys throughout Asia Minor. Please feel free to come and go as you like; reading is always voluntary, bring your questions.

**Midweek Bible Study** – Midweek Bible study in the Book of Romans will resume Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Pastor's home 4384 SW 36<sup>th</sup> St, Redmond, or on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

**Thank you** – To all those who helped in our worship this evening as we celebrated Jesus' birth.

**Pastor:** Roger Emmons  
**Email:** Roger.emmons@graceredmond.com  
**Web Site:** <https://graceredmond.com>  
**Church Phone:** 541-844-7100  
**Cell Phone:** 541-699-7643

**Address:** 945 SW Glacier Ave  
Redmond, OR 97756  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 2396  
Redmond, OR 97756