



*His life gave light to everyone... The
light keeps
shining in the dark, and darkness has
never
put it out. – John 1:3-5*

Christmas Eve Celebration

December 24, 2011

6:00 pm

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt
among us full of grace and truth...*

- John 1:14



PRELUDE

Sandra Perkins & Gail Rollings

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Donald & Sandy Hunter

*[The congregation is invited to join the choir
in the second time this chorus is sung.]*

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a
King, there is won - der in the sound of the an - gels as they
sing. O__ come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and join us here.

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GREETINGS

Rev. Mark Sprowl

*Those who are able, please stand

Congregation reads **BOLD** face type

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 9:6)

Leader: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

People: And the government shall be upon his shoulders.

Leader: And his name shall be called...

**People: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.**

Leader: God's anointed, the Messiah, the Christ has come!

People: The promise has been kept! Alleluia!

*CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (#182, Verses 1 & 3)

[*Ring your bells as you sing words in **CAPITAL** letters.*]

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!

Refrain: **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 HEAVEN ABOVE!

Glory to God, all Glory IN THE HIGHEST! (Refrain)

*A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

**Loving God, we thank you
that you have caused your light to shine in darkness,
your glory to be revealed where it is least expected,
and that this continues to be your way.**

**Bless us as we worship this night
so that the wonder, the mystery and the joy
of that first Christmas might be ours as well.**

All glory be to you, O God, tonight and always! Amen.

*RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard on High* (#188)

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
GLO-RIA IN EXCELSIS DE-O! GLO-RIA IN EXCELSIS DE-O!**

*PASSING THE PEACE

BIBLE READING Luke 2:1-20 *Jesus Is Born*

CHORAL ANTHEM *O Night Divine* Choir
Miss Sydney Greenberg, violin

[*Children are invited to join Pastor Mark at the front of the sanctuary.*]

A STORY FOR CHRISTMAS Rev. Mark Sprowl

*CAROL *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (#185, Verses 1 & 3)

[*Ring your bells as you sing words n **CAPITAL** letters.*]

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, GOD AND SINNER RECONCILED!"
JOYFUL, ALL YE NATIONS RISE, join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim, "CHRIST IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING!"**

**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 MAY NO 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!"**



*WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH (from the Gospel of John , Chapter 1)

**I believe that Jesus is the Word of God,
that he was with God at the beginning of Creation
and, in fact, was God.**

**I believe that Jesus is the Light of God
that came into a darkened world
so that, through his light,
all people might experience the gift of new life.**

**I believe that Jesus is Emmanuel,
God who lived with us, as one of us,
and that, as we trust our lives to him,
we become children of God.**

**In him, we discover divine grace for a fresh start;
we find the truth that sets us free
from all that holds us back.**

**Until the first Christmas, no one had ever seen God,
but, in Jesus, we now know who God is
and how much we are loved. Amen.**

DUET & CHOIR

I Wonder as I Wander

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

CAROL

Away in a Manger (#203, Verses 1 & 2)

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

[Continued on next page]

**The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

RECALLING JESUS' COMMAND

"Do this in remembrance..."

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The Bread of Life... The Cup of Salvation

(We will serve the communion bread and juice tonight at the front of the sanctuary. Please come forward one row at a time. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served where you are sitting. Take a piece of bread from the common loaf and dip it into the cup of juice. Please return to your seat via the outer aisles.)

Assisting Pastor Mark tonight in serving the communion elements are Ruling Elders Evelyn Foster, Jerry Bond and Judy Recher.

PRAYER OF SENDING

INVITATION AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*CAROLS OF JOY AND PRAISE

Joy to the World (#179, verses 1 & 4)

**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 heav'n, and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the earth 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.**



The First Noel (#229, Verses 1 & 2)

**The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the king of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the king of Israel.**



Silent Night (#186)

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in Heavenly peace! Sleep in Heavenly peace!**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, Love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy Holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**

* BLESSING



We are glad you are in worship with us on this special night and wish you God's joy and peace this holy season!

We hope you will join us for our regular services of worship on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. We also invite you to try out our engaging Sunday School with classes for all ages on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. In addition to our Sunday programs, Gregory offers opportunities for mission, fellowship and nurture throughout the week and month. We would love to put you on our mailing list. You may let us know of your interest by completing one of the visitor cards in the pews.

For more information about Gregory, pick up one of our visitor packets near the entrance to the sanctuary or check out our website, www.gregorymemorial.org. Our Interim Pastor would also look forward to answer any questions you may have. Hope to see you again soon!

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