



"With the Angels, Let us Sing"
DR. Tim BRUSTER
Luke 2:8-20, Philippians 4:4-8

Traditional Worship
11:00 am
December 23, 2018

PRE-SERVICE CAROLING

Hymn 254 – We Three Kings (Verses 1, 2, 5)
(in booklet) God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (Verses 1, 2, 4)
Hymn 230 – O Little Town of Bethlehem (Verses 1, 2, 3)
Hymn 237 – Sing We Now of Christmas (Verses 1, 2, 5)

Word of the Day:
Joy

Memory Verse:
Rejoice in the
LORD always.
– Philippians 4:4

WE GATHER

Welcome

Prelude – You Come Down From the Stars; Sleep, O Holy Child
(FROM THREE ITALIAN CHRISTMAS CAROLS)
Kenneth Danchik, ARRANGER

Announcements

Musical Call to Worship – Song of the Shepherds
(FROM THREE ITALIAN CHRISTMAS CAROLS)
Kenneth Danchik, ARRANGER

Silent Night

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Scripture – Luke 2:8-20

*Hymn 213 – Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates ←

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.**

**Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!**

This hymn is based on words from Psalm 24, which was written several hundred years before the birth of Jesus. This hymn, like the Psalm is about preparing the way for the Lord.

ADVENT

A STATEMENT OF FAITH FOR ADVENT

(John 1:1-5)

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

Amen and Amen.

WE PROCLAIM

Sacrament of Baptism

Addison Joy Johnson and Cooper Anthony Johnson, children of Allison and Robert Johnson

Baptismal Hymn 191 (Verse. 1) – Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Congregational Response

With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that **Addison Joy and Cooper Anthony**, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

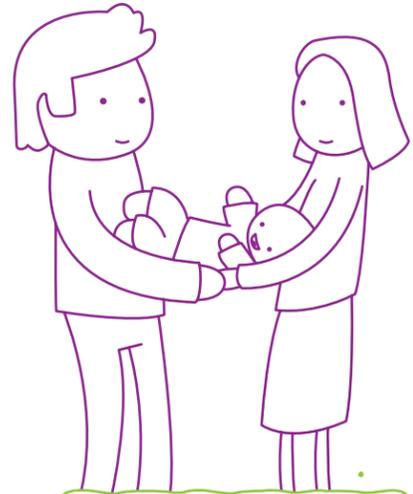
Scripture – Philippians 4:4-8

God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.
Thanks be to God.

Faith Like a Child

Special Music – Every Valley Shall Be Exalted (from Messiah)
George Frideric Handel, composer

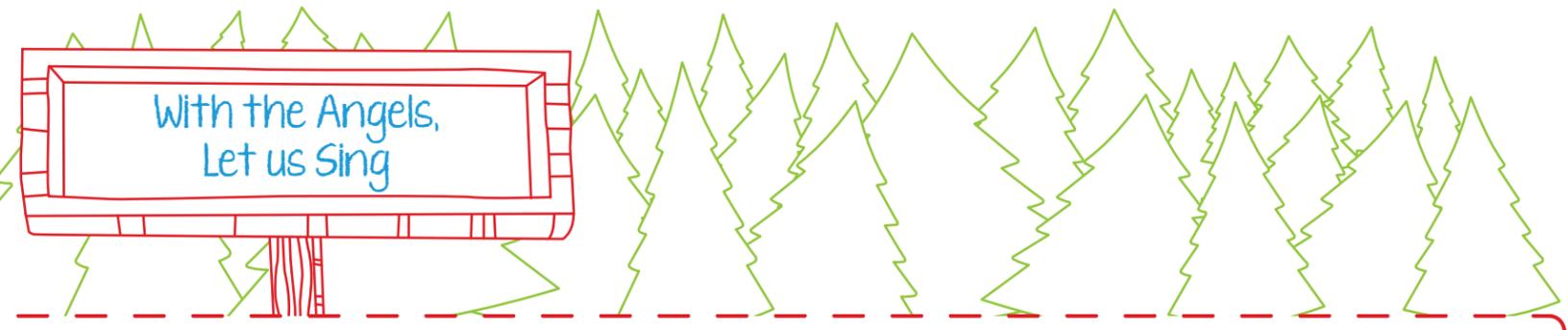
Meditation – With the Angels, Let Us Sing



Baptism:
When someone is baptized, it's a chance for all of us to celebrate how much God loves that person. God loves each one of us, not because of anything we do, but simply because we are God's children.



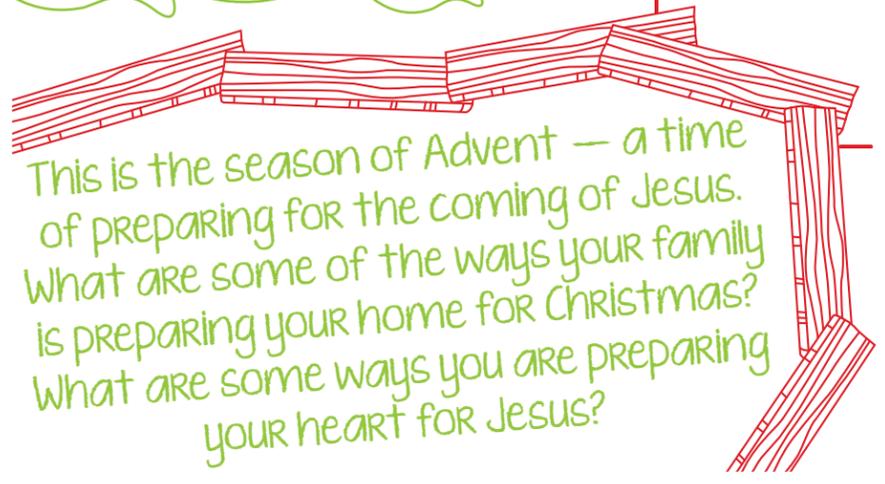
Sermon Snips:
You don't have to "just sit there." Choose one of the sermon snips and let it guide you as you take your relationship with God to the next level.



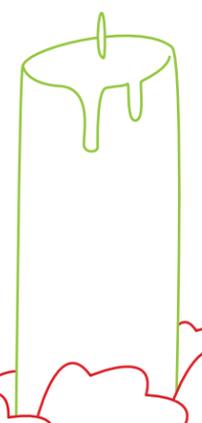
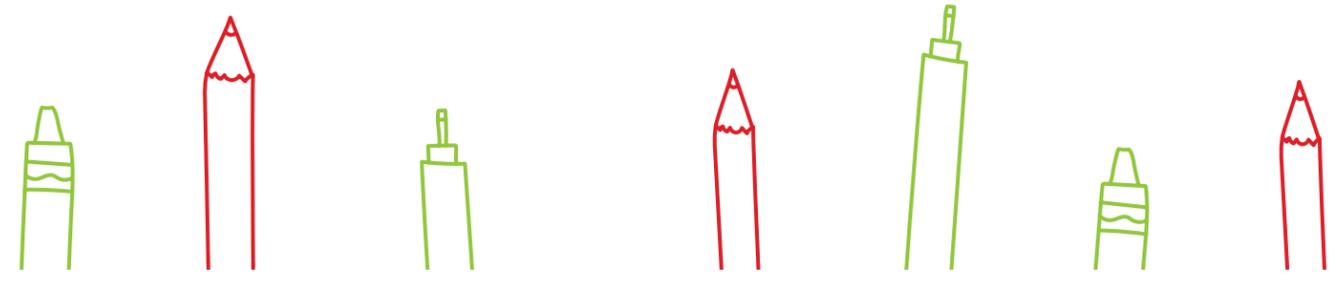
Illustrate a line from your favorite Christmas carol.



This is an Advent wreath without its candles. Find the Advent wreath in our worship space. How many candles does it have? Add the same number of candles to your wreath.



This is the season of Advent — a time of preparing for the coming of Jesus. What are some of the ways your family is preparing your home for Christmas? What are some ways you are preparing your heart for Jesus?



Draw a light on this candle as you think about one of the following: Peace, Hope, Love, Joy, The Light of Jesus (pick a different one each week).

WE RESPOND

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.

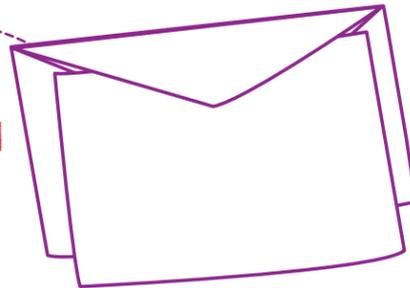
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our 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.
Amen.

Many years
after Jesus went
to heaven, the
early church
added this part
of the prayer.
Hold the prayer
cross close to
your heart as
you say this part.



A Time of Giving

Offertory — An English Christmas

Michael Helman, arranger

Find the offering envelope in your worship kit. Write your first and last name on the envelope, then put in the money you plan to give to the church. Place the envelope in the offering plate. Every dollar makes a difference!

* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

* Hymn 211 — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain — Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.

Refrain

* Benediction

Our gathering will soon be ended, where will we go, and what will we do?

We will go out to be God's people in the world.

May grace, peace, hope, love, and joy forever accompany you. Amen.

* Congregational Closing — Silent Night

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.

* Postlude — Toccata on "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

Jason Payne, arranger

The poinsettias and decorations in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Broderick and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith.

Worship Leaders:

Sermon: Dr. Tim Bruster, Senior Pastor

Liturgists: Rev. Chuck Graff, Rev. Phyllis Barren

Choir: Choral Union

Mr. Robert Stovall, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Mrs. Peggy Graff, Organist/Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts

Soloist: Mr. Aaron Hampton, baritone

Special Music: Fifth Street Bells, Ms. Alison Haygood, director

Linda Moore, Jim Gerhard, Susan Bruster, Isabel Pratt, Matthew Roth, Elaine Johnson, Amanda Tucker, and Peggy McBeath

Landon Peugh

*Please stand as you are able.

Please Note:

Church and Business Office Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve | Monday, December 24

Church Sanctuary open noon – midnight

Business Office closed

Christmas Day | Tuesday, December 25 | Closed

Wednesday, December 26 | Closed

Thursday, December 27 | 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Friday, December 28 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

New Year's Eve | Monday, December 31 | Church closed

Business Office open 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

New Year's Day | Tuesday, January 1 | Closed

Christmas Eve Services

Traditional Candlelight and Communion: noon, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 11:00 pm

Family Candlelight and Communion: 3:30 pm, 5:00 pm

How are you going
to be one of God's
people in the world
this week?

WORSHIP KIT

↪ INSIDE YOU WILL FIND ↪

TREASURES OF NATURE BOX

One of the best ways we can experience God's power and love is by cherishing God's handiwork in the wonders of nature. Carefully open the box and discover what treasures wait inside.

BLANK CARD

You can use the pencil and crayons to make a *Thank You* note for someone in the Sanctuary who helped make worship feel special to you. It could be a parent, a minister, a choir member, an usher, or someone in the next pew who gave you a friendly wave. After the service, ask your parents to take you to hand-deliver the card.

ANOINTING BALM

Use the anointing balm to bless a friend or family member sitting next to you. Rub a tiny bit of the balm on your thumb and trace the sign of the cross on your neighbor's forehead or back of the hand (whichever they prefer). As you do this, say a simple blessing, such as "God bless you." (It's not just for sneezes.) Or, for a longer blessing, you could say:

*You are a special person.
God loves you, and so do I.
Bless you.*

And don't forget to allow your neighbor the privilege of getting to bless you.

PIPE STEMS

There are so many things you can do with pipe stems. You could:

- Listen to the sermon and sculpt an object you hear mentioned.
- Shape them in the initials of someone you'd like to pray for.
- Look around the Sanctuary and sculpt something you see.
- Sculpt a flower and give it to a family member.
- Make a friendship bracelet and give it to a friend, or to a new member.

PRAYER CROSS

The cross is such a powerful symbol of God's love and hope. Anytime is a good time to hold on to the cross. See inside the bulletin for how to use the prayer cross during the Lord's Prayer.

TANGLE

Listen to a piece of music or a Bible story and mold the tangle to show how it makes you feel.

Does it make you feel:

- Open and ready for God's presence?
- Tangled and confused?
- Wrapped snugly and securely?
- Calm like a gentle stream?
- Not sure?

PENCIL AND CRAYONS

Use these to write notes in your bulletin, draw a prayer, illustrate a story you hear in the sermon, or even ask hard questions.

CLOTH FIGURE

Here are just a few things you can do with the cloth figure:

- Have it act out the events in the Bible story.
- Help it read the bulletin.
- Gently hold it the way God is holding you right now.

EYE SPY CARD AND TELESCOPE

Use the Eye Spy card to identify some of the many meaningful objects and symbols in our Sanctuary. Use the telescope to help you explore.

