



**December 29, 2024**

**Livestream & In-Person**

**10:00 a.m.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

\* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Debbie Nordeen

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

**People: Praise the Lord from the earth!**

Leader: Young and old alike,

**People: male and female, together**

Leader: Let all creation praise the Lord!

\* OPENING SONG

**“Joy to the World”**

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 heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ;

While field and floods, rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world 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

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

Debbie Nordeen

Leader: With humble and trusting hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**All: God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witness to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

### **Silence**

Leader: As the Lord has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## \* RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE **“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo

## TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*(Children are invited to the front of the church. Afterwards, children 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to Sunday School in Room 205 and 207.)*

## \* SONG **“What Child Is This?”**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52

<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his

parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." <sup>49</sup> He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

SERMON

***In Search of Christmas***

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

\* SONG

**"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

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

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.

Jesus to Thee be all glory given

Word of the Father now in flesh appearing

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; glory in the highest

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, in this Christmas season, we thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus Christ. As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we rejoice that we serve a risen Savior who is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, who is the same yesterday and today and forever. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Sovereign God, help us trust in your Word that you are making all things new. Open our eyes to your powerful works all around us. As we look ahead to 2025, we are tempted to see nothing but more of the same. Show us what you have in mind. Call us again to be part of your ongoing re-creation of your world. Inspire and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

Lord of all nations, we humbly pray for peace throughout the world. Hasten the day when weapons of war will no longer be needed. Inspire world leaders to seek the things that make for peace. Comfort the afflicted and oppressed. Shelter all who suffer the devastation of ongoing conflicts. Protect the aid workers and peacemakers. Lord, may our prayers for peace not be empty words. Give us the courage to work for peace in our own communities. Help us do the hard work of reconciliation and truth-telling that all may have liberty and justice.

Loving God, during this Christmas season, may we not forget to share the love you have so freely given in Jesus Christ. Guide us in all we do that we may respond with compassion to those in need. Help us be a church that takes the good news of Jesus Christ beyond the walls and traditions and safety of our buildings. Help us always to put our trust in our Lord who says, "Follow me."

We offer these and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray,

**All: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*(If you would like to privately share a concern, thanksgiving, or request for healing, please come to the Stephen Ministry banner on the east wall of the Sanctuary immediately following the service for individual prayer with a Stephen Minister.)*

\* CLOSING SONG

**“Go, Tell It on the Mountain!”**

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
That Jesus Christ is born!

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Call to Worship, Confession and Pardon from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, © Westminster John Knox Press 2013.

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Audio/Video: Bruce MacLean and David Stoffel

Music Director: Keith Atwater

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Drums: Will Condrey

Guitar and Vocal: Jenny DeVries

Vocal: Anita Lawson, Beth Lindley, and Julie Ueltzen

