

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 14, 2025

“Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker! For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.” - Psalm 95 : 6-7

WELCOME—ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP 2 Samuel 7:12-13

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

WORSHIP IN SONG God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember, Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God, our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might.”

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks afeeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.

CONFESSION OF SIN

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things - and you have filled our hearts with joy!
By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and hope into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that too often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts; we try to enhance what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we have already received. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus's sake alone. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Isaiah 44:21-23

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.

WORSHIP IN SONG God Be Merciful to Me (Psalm 51)

God, be merciful to me, on Thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion Thou, blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against Thy grace and provoked Thee to Thy face;
I confess Thy judgement just, speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust by Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice and in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;
Cast me not away from Thee, let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me and return, O God, to Thee;
Savior, all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing Thy love;
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.

WORSHIP IN SONG Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting,
Thou rulest in might; Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small; in all life Thou livest,
The true life of all. We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish - but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, Thine angels adore Thee,
All veiling their sight; all praise we would render;
O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

WORSHIP IN SONG Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found Him,
As angel heralds said.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

(Kids from Preschool to Kindergarten (ages 3-6) may be dismissed to Kids’ Worship.
Teachers are waiting to lead them out of the sanctuary.)

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Scripture: Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 7:14
New Testament Reading - Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: “Messengers of the Messiah's Birth: Joseph” - David Story

WORSHIP IN 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!

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

BENEDICTION