

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 21, 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 Micah 5:2-5

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

### SPECIAL MUSIC Go Tell it on the Mountain - Crossgate Kids

### WORSHIP IN SONG It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King!”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast’ning on, by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord, we have not kept vigilant watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our carelessness. Help us to work and watch for your coming. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

### WORSHIP IN SONG While by the Sheep We Watched at Night

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem, a child today.  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!

There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall redeem us all.  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!

This gift of God we’ll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill.  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!

### WORSHIP IN SONG Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

### WORSHIP IN 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 in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

(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 11:1-9  
New Testament Reading - Luke 2:9-15

Sermon: “Messengers of the Messiah’s Birth: Shepherds ” - David Story

### WORSHIP IN SONG 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.

See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## BENEDICTION