



For what we proclaim is not ourselves,  
but Jesus Christ as Lord,  
with ourselves as your servants  
for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:5

While we struggle with our many 'clumsy words,' God needs only one word to perfectly communicate the depth and mystery, the passion and the overwhelming grace of who He is. By that Word, Light became a living being.

Manna became a man. Wisdom became a person. In Him, life came to life;  
all that God is came to us in that One Final Word... we call Jesus.

Michael Card, Immanuel: *Reflections on the Life of Christ*

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell...

Colossians 1:19

# The Lord's Day — December 26, 2021

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus! Thank you for joining us today and may the Lord richly bless you.

## Song of Assembly<sup>1</sup>

## Angels from the Realms of Glory

Montgomery

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.  
Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.  
All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Ever more your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

## Welcome and Announcements

## Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 128:1-2, 6

Pastor: Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walk in his ways!

**People: You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you!**

**All: Peace be upon God's people!**

## Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 128

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<sup>1</sup> All songs used by permission or covered under CCLI license # 391165.

## Hymn of Praise

## The First Noel

## Traditional Carol

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.

This star drew night to the north-west; O'er Bethlehem it took it's rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord, Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught, And with His blood mankind hath bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

## Reading of the Word: *Oh, that you would rend the heavens*

Isaiah 64:1-12

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people. Your holy cities have become a wilderness; Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you, has been burned by fire, and all our pleasant places have become ruins. Will you restrain yourself at these things, O Lord? Will you keep silent, and afflict us so terribly?

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## Confession of Sin

**O God our Father, forgive us for thinking less of you than we ought; for we think your truth too high, your will too hard, and your power too remote; but they are not! We humbly ask that you resolve our confused minds with your word, redirect our divided wills with your law, restore our troubled consciences with your forgiveness, and revive our anxious hearts with your presence, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us ...Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin... Amen!**

## **The Gospel Pardon**

**Colossians 1:13-14**

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## **Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs**

### **Good Christian Men, Rejoice**

**Neale**

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Earth and heav'n before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!  
Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hast opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

### **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**Wesley**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners 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."  
Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."  
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing on His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth,  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

## **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

**Praetorius**

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 men 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.

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition**

**Elder Jay Suggs**

## **Sermon**

**Pastor Nathan White**

### **What Mary Knew And We Forget Luke 1:46-55 (page 856)**

## **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Communion, also called The Lord's Supper or Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to share in this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live in a deeper communion with Jesus. If you are not a Christian, or you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the Church.

*(Gluten free communion bread is available upon request; please let the pastor know at the table. The silver trays at the back of the table contain wine. The gold trays at the front of the table contain juice. Please hold the elements until all have been served so that we may partake together.)*

## **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

**Reed**

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 the 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.

## **Benediction<sup>2</sup>**

**adapted from Dr. Dale Ralph Davis**

Now may an incarnated Savior's humility, a dying Savior's love, a risen Savior's joy, an ascended Savior's power,  
and a returning Savior's hope, rest upon your hearts and your homes. Amen.

## **Song of Faith**

### **Behold Him**

Jesus, Son of God, Messiah  
The Lamb, the roaring Lion  
Oh, be still and behold Him.

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<sup>2</sup> Just as God called us into His presence at the beginning, so now He commands His blessing upon us as we depart. We look up and extend our hands in a posture of thanksgiving as we receive this great gift. Our final response to God's assurance of His peace and presence upon those who are in Christ is a chorus of joyful song.

## Church Family Reminders

**Upcoming Guest Preachers:** Rev. Dieter Paulson (1/2)

**Table Bridal Shower:** There will be a Table Bridal Shower for Allie Greenhaw (daughter of Brian & Julie Rodgers) Sunday, January 9 immediately after worship service. There will be a table in the gathering room for you to leave your gifts as they prepare for marriage.

**DPC Women's Ministry:** Save the date for our FREEDOM IN CHRIST WOMENS RETREAT at Smith Lake with Guest Speaker Julie Sparkman. February 4th & 5th, 2022. All women ages 21 & up are invited. Cost is \$35 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch, guest speaker, and an overnight stay. Please RSVP by January 23, 2022 to reserve your spot. Forms are located on the foyer table. More details coming soon!

**Sermon Outline Notes:** for adults and children are available on the back table.

# ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

WINTER 2021

9:30 am

**Zechariah:** Come join us as we study the book of Zechariah, in the classroom across the hall from the church offices. The book of Zechariah addresses God's people who are discouraged and in need of renewal. In doing so, it provides a captivating vision of God and his work in the world, leading us into a deeper longing for God and the coming of his kingdom, which finds its realization in Christ. Please join us in this study.

**Sedona Class:** A study of 1 Peter: A Living Hope Amidst Life's Great Challenges. Using material written by Dr. Frank Barker, we will unwrap practical ways Peter's message can guide us through our dilemmas and day-to-day living. The class meets in the classroom down the back hallway from the sanctuary, across from the choir room. Guests are always welcome!

## Session

Jeff Keith  
Mike McMahan  
Kent Quinn  
Brian Rodgers  
Connor Ross  
Allen Schmidt

Jason Seale  
Greg Smith  
Jay Suggs  
Blake Temple  
Chip Walraven

## Diaconate

Wade Littrell  
Bill Nelson  
Scott Missildine

Andy Thompson  
Sam Thompson  
David Whitcomb

## Church Staff

Associate Pastor  
Assistant Pastor  
Worship Director  
Office Administrator  
NextGen Coordinator  
Nursery Coordinator  
Kitchen Coordinator  
Media Coordinator

Rick Stark  
Nathan White  
Stu Schieler  
Tonya Roth  
Lainee Oliver  
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## Service Times

9:30am      Sunday School  
10:45am      Worship

DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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