



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

The Lord's Day — December 17, 2023

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

Song of Assembly¹

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!

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Isaiah 7:14; Luke 2:14

Pastor: The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

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Hymn of Praise

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.
Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:
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.

The Chris Priest Family (8:15 am)

The Reading for the Third Sunday of Advent: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The Braden Ladner Family (10:45 am)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

O Lord, we want more than anything to enter into your presence and worship you face to face, awed by your majesty, greatness, and glory, encouraged by your love, mercy, and goodness. Yet we know that there is coldness in our hearts and unwillingness to admit our sin and need for you. Forgive us, Father. Come near to us and strengthen us until Christ shall reign supreme within us, in every thought, word, and deed, in a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to you, and always clings to the cross ...Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin... Amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 5:10-11

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

English Carol

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 power when we were gone astray;

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly 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 power and might.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and fellowship, each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas may your heart be filled with grace.

Midnight Clear (Love Song)

Myrin/Tomlin/Cash

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.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:
And man at war with man hears not the love song which they bring,
O hush the noise and cease the strife and hear the angels sing.

Glory to God in the highest, glory to God evermore. Good news, great joy for all.

Melody breaks through the silence, Christ the Savior is born.

Jesus, the love song of God. (Chorus 2x)

Jesus, the love song of God.

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Caswall

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies, He who built the starry skies;
He who throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say, what's your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep, on the lonely mountain steep?

"As we watched at dead of night, Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing 'Peace on earth,' told us of the Savior's birth".

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Tucker Fleming

(Immediately following this prayer, 4-5 year olds are invited, but not required, to attend Teach me to Worship. They will meet their teachers in the back of the sanctuary and from there, will follow them to the classroom. They will return to sit on the back row to see Communion and hear the Benediction. Parents can pick them up there at the conclusion of the service.)

His Tithes & Our Offerings

Sermon

Pastor Rick Stark

A Servant to the Weary
Isaiah 50:4-11 (Page 611)

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 signal the pastor to let him know. In each tray of drink, the clear communion cups contain juice and the purple contain wine. Please hold the elements until all have been served so that we may partake together.)

Because of Your Tender Mercy

Moffitt/Smith

Because of Your tender mercy, The morning light from heaven is about to shine, Is about to shine.

Because of Your tender mercy, Though we have walked in darkness,

You will end our night, You will end our night.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the angels sing, Let earth receive the King of kings. So holy, so worthy, You come to us.

Because of Your tender mercy, To ev'ry generation You have shown Your love, You have shown Your love.

Because of Your tender mercy, You are forever faithful, reaching down to us, Reaching down to us.

Because of Your tender mercy. Because of Your tender mercy.

Benediction²

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Song of Faith

Behold Him

Jesus, Son of God, Messiah

The Lamb, the roaring Lion

Oh, be still and behold Him.

² 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

Welcome to our Visitors! We are so grateful to God that you've come! If you are willing, please use the QR to give us as much contact information as you are comfortable with. In this way, we reconnect with you and find ways that we may be able to serve you or pray for you.



Christmas Eve Breakfast: Everyone is invited to come enjoy fellowship and breakfast next Sunday, December 24 at 9:30am. This will be in place of our normal Sunday schools. Also, note that there will be only one worship service at 10:45am on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve Service: Our Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service will be next Sunday, December 24th, at 4:30 PM. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ!

Christmas Holiday Schedule:

Dec. 22, the church office closes at 1:00pm.

Dec. 24, no 8:15am worship or Sunday school; a 9:30am breakfast; 10:45am worship.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service at 4:30pm.

Dec. 26, the church office is closed all day.

Dec. 31, no 8:15am worship; regular 9:30am Sunday school and 10:45am worship service.

Jan. 01, the church office is closed all day.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study: We will be taking our Christmas break December 12 - January 9, 2024 and resume on January 16, 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the church gathering room. The Monday night study will begin again on January 22. Next year we are studying Luke, Part 3. Study books will be available in the Book Nook soon. Childcare is provided! For questions, contact Teresa Quinn (256)565-0897. Visitors are welcome!

ROOTS 2024: The next edition of ROOTS is on the calendar from 1/19-1/21 at Camp ToKnowHim. Our theme for this year is "My Savior Makes Me Whole," and the cost is \$145. To sign up, scan the QR code outside the Youth Room or email tucker@decaturpca.org for more information!

DPC Short-Term Mission Trip: Mark your calendars! Our 2024 mission in the Dominican Republic will be June 4-11!!

Life Groups/Small Groups: Looking to grow spiritually? 'Discipleship' is a key component of the DPC mission! Please use the "interest card" to indicate your desire to participate in a Life Group or other small group. For more information, contact pastor Rick Stark, rick@decaturpca.org.

Wednesday Night Ministries: We will take our Christmas break from our normal schedule of Wednesday night ministries, December 13 - January 03, and then resume on January 10, 2024! Mark your calendar!

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

WINTER 2023

9:30 am

“Grandparenting Matters”: We invite all grandparents to join us. We will be studying and discussing from the Scriptures why grandparenting matters and how do we practically love and pass along our faith to our children and grandchildren, in the classroom across the hall from the church offices.

Sedona Class: Galatians The class taught by George Godwin, meets in the classroom down the back hallway from the sanctuary, across from the choir room. Walk-ins are welcome!

Study #158 - Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon: In the context of study and fellowship, we will discuss and make applications from the stories of the New Testament church - its community, doctrine, and mission - through the Letters of Paul.

Session

George Godwin
Jeff Keith
Mike McMahan
Brian Rodgers
Connor Ross

Allen Schmidt
Greg Smith
Blake Temple
Chip Walraven

Diaconate

John Elder
James Fudge
Wade Littrell
Bill Nelson
Scott Missildine
Kris Olin

Steve Sasser
Andy Thompson
Sam Thompson
David Whitcomb
David Zajic

Church Staff

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Youth Ministries
Worship Director
Office Administrator
NextGen Coordinator
Nursery Coordinator
Kitchen Coordinator
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Service Times

8:15am Worship
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship

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