

Good Shepherd Church
A Baptist Reformed Fellowship
4th Sunday in Advent/ Christmas
Behold the Sovereign Yahweh comes!

December 19, 2021



*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"*
Matthew 1:23

Gathering unto God

God's Word of Greeting:

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and Jesus Messiah our Lord.

Call to Worship-

Pastor & People

"Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. "

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people.

He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago.

May his glory fill the whole earth, may our lips pour forth his praise.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things; and blessed be his glorious name forever.

May his glory fill the whole earth, may our lips pour forth his praise

Galatians 4:4; Luke 1:68-70

Hymn- **O Come All You Faithful** 367P

O come, all you faithful,
joyful and triumphant!

O come now, O come now 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!

2. God of God,
Light of light,
he who was born from the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation!
Sing, all you citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God in the highest!'

4. Yes, Lord, we greet you,
born for our salvation:
Jesus, to you be glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Invocation

Pastor Jeff

Hymn- **Joy Has Dawned Upon the World**

Joy has dawned upon the world,
promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life
shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast,
vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
gazing at the glory;
gifts of men from distant lands
prophecy the story.
Gold, a King is born today;
incense, God is with us; myrrh,

his death will make a way,
and by his blood he'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
given as a ransom
reconciling God and man:
Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior,
what a Friend,
what a glorious mystery:
once a babe in Bethlehem,
now the Lord of history
Author: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Call to Confession

When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary,
he became like us in all things but sin.

May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways. Let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession:

We confess that there are times, Lord, when our lack of faith has made us fearful. We acknowledge that sometimes we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray. There are times when we have reduced the expressions of our faith into lifeless ritual and have selfishly kept our gifts and have not freely given our goods and our hearts to you. Forgive us, gracious God.

Assurance of Pardon

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11, NIV). He was given the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sin. (Mt.1:21). Amen.

To those who belong to him through faith God gives forgiveness. Praise His Name!

Hymn- Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
blotting out each dark misdeed;
all that well deserved his anger
he no more will see or heed.

She hath suffered many day,
now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
into ever-springing gladness.

Author- Johannes Olearius
Genevan 42(Thirsting)

We Read the Holy Scripture

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me. John 5:39

First Testament-Micah 5:2-5a

New Testament-Luke 1:46b-55

New Testament- Titus 3:4-8; Titus 2:11-14

New Testament- Matthew 1:18-25

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn- The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

***Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.***

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.
Author- Unknown of Cornish origin

Hymn- O What a Mystery I See

O what a mystery I see,
what marvelous design,
that God should come as one of us,
a son in David's line.
Flesh of our flesh, of woman born,
our humanness he owns;
and for a world of wickedness
his guiltless blood atones.

2. This perfect man, incarnate God,
by selfless sacrifice

destroyed our sinful history,
all fallen Adam's curse.
In him the curse to blessing turns,
my barren spirit flowers,
as over the shattered power of sin
the cross of Jesus towers.

3. By faith a child of his I stand,
an heir in David's line,
royal descendant by his blood
destined by love's design.
Fathers of faith, my fathers now!
because in Christ I am,
and all God's promises in him
to me are 'Yes, amen!'

4. No more then as a child of earth
must I my lifetime spend-
his history, his destiny
are mine to apprehend.
O, what a Savior, what a Lord!
O, Master, Brother, Friend!
What miracle has joined me to
this life that never ends!
CCLI #819582
Graham Kendrick

We Pray the Lord's Disciple Prayer for Advent

Advent Disciples Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—hallowed be your name.
Christ our Lord, you descended to earth, to a lowly manger
to bring all nations under your rule
and draw us into your holy and perfect presence.
We bow at your manger in awe of your might.
Immanuel, God with us—hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Prince of Peace, make your kingdom complete.
May we prepare a way for your kingdom
wherever there is violence and hatred
wherever there is oppression and injustice
wherever there is quarreling and alienation.
May we prepare a way for your kingdom of peace,
where the wolf will live with the lamb and the leopard will lie down with the kid.
In us, through us, and around us, your kingdom come.

Give us today our daily bread.

Bread of life, feed us with your truth.
In a season of greed and selfish desires
may we see that we are sustained only by your providence.
May our eagerness to open our gifts
Pale in comparison to our joy to receive the gift of the Savior.
May our discontent disappear as we approach the day of your coming.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lord God, our lives are filled with sin.
We need a Savior to come to us.
For our worry and our scurrying this Advent season, forgive us.
For the way we make this a season of shopping rather than waiting, forgive us.
For the security and comfort we seek from sources other than you, forgive us.
For our indifference to the wonder of your coming, forgive us.
Come to us, Savior of the world.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

Protect us from the constant dangers and enticing temptations we face each day.
Deliver us from the oppressive evils of apathy, addiction, and abuse.
Strengthen your church when it faces persecution
for announcing the coming of your kingdom.
Comfort all who are suffering in their hearts or in their bodies;
give them health and peace to sing of your power.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Word who became flesh and lived among us,
we have seen your glory, full of grace and truth.
You come to us now, and you will come to us again in glory,
when we will join all heaven and earth in giving you blessing
and honor and glory and might forever!

Until that glorious day, we praise you for becoming one of us,
And we long for your glory to be fully revealed.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

-from Matthew 6:9-13; English translation of the Lord's Prayer copyright © 1988 by the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC). An Advent prayer based on the Lord's Prayer, loosely adapted from [The Worship Sourcebook](#)

We Present Our Prayers and Gifts to God

Concerns and Prayers of the People

Offering Scripture

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

Dedication Prayer - Congregation

*O Mighty One, you have done and are doing great things for us,
and holy is your name.*

*Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—
that through us your grace and favor
may be made known to all the world,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.*

Hymn- “Lord, You Were Rich”

366P

Lord, you were rich beyond all splendor,
yet, for love’s sake, became so poor;
thrones for a manger did surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor:
Lord, you were rich beyond all splendor,
yet, for love’s sake, became so poor.

2. Lord, you are God beyond all praising,
yet, for love’s sake, became a man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards by your eternal plan:
Lord, you are God beyond all praising,
yet, for love’s sake, became a man.

3. Lord, you are love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship you;
Immanuel, within us dwelling,
make us and keep us pure and true:
Lord, you are love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship you.

Author- Frank Houghton

We Hear the Word Expounded

Sermon Text: Matthew 1:1-25 cf Luke 1:39-45; John 1:1-4,14-18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. Matthew 1:18

Sermon: “Where Jesus Came From”

by Wayne Conrad

Hymn- “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” 106H

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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!""

Refrain:

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
""Glory to the newborn King. ""***

2 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. (Refrain)

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in 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. (Refrain)

Professing Our Faith

Let us confess our common Christian faith with a section from the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried; he descended to the dead;
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

A Christmas Eucharist Service

We draw near to Christ around His table...

Minister: How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?

People: **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O holy God, Creator and Ruler of the Universe. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful and turned from your ways, you did not forsake us; your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity to sin, made covenant with us to be our sovereign God, and sent prophets and apostles to call us back to your way.

In the fullness of time you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity, became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld your glory.

People: **Immanuel! God with us!**

Minister: Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.***

Minister:

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by the blood of Jesus and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God for his mercy to us!**

Invitation to the Table:

All who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love and who are seeking daily to turn away from sin and live by faith in him are most heartily welcome to this table.

Thanksgiving:

As your Word became flesh, born of a woman, on that night long ago, so on the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "**Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**"

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.**"

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this cup and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice which is our reasonable service of worship.

Minster: Christ is the Bread of life whose blood purchased us.

People: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

Prayer of Blessing:

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in fellowship with your people everywhere. As this is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Communion in the Bread and the Cup:

Christ our Passover Lamb was sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the festival!

He is the true Bread from heaven; whoever eats of him will live forever.

Take and eat, remember that Christ gave himself for your salvation, and feed upon him by faith in your hearts with thanksgiving.

A Communion Hymn for Christmas

Gathered Round Your Table

Gathered round Your table on this holy eve,
Viewing Bethlehem's stable we rejoice and grieve.
Joy to see You lying in Your manger bed,
Weep to see You dying in our sinful stead.

Prince of Glory, gracing heaven ere time began,
Now for us embracing death as Son of Man.
By Your birth so lowly, by Your love so true,
By Your cross, most holy Lord, we worship You.

Bethlehem's Incarnation, Calvary's bitter cross,
Wrought for us salvation, by Your pain and loss.
Now we fall before You in this holy place,
Prostrate, we adore You for Your gift of grace.

With profoundest wonder we Your body take.
Laid in manger yonder, broken for our sake.
Hushed in adoration, we approach the cup,
Bethlehem's pure oblation freely offered up.

Christmas babe so tender, Lamb who bore our blame.
How shall sinners render praises due Your name?
Do Your own good pleasure in the lives we bring.
In Your ransomed treasure reign forever King!

Text- Margaret Clarkson 1986
11.11.11.11 Greenridge

Sharing of the Cup:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Take and drink, remember, believe, and give thanks, because our Lord Jesus by his blood paid the debt you owed to God. His death brought your justification. His righteousness has been granted to you.

Collect Prayer- Congregation

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Commitment (in unison)

Strengthen for service, O Lord, the hands that have taken holy things. May the ears that have heard your Word be deaf to clamor and dispute.

May the tongues that have sung your praises be free from deceit;
may the eyes that have seen tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; may the bodies that have been fed with your Body be replenished with the fulness of your life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

(Adapted from *The Services of the Christian Year*, Robert Webber, editor, p. 173-175; & *Handbook of the Christian Year*, p. 73-74)

We Depart in Hopeful Expectation

Lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

"Our salvation is nearer now than when we first became believers."

Hymn- 363P "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord has 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!

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Your sweetest songs employ,
while fields and streams and hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
where Eden's curse is found,
where Eden's curse is found,
wherever Eden's curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
the wonders of his love,
the wonders of his love,
the wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction

Yahweh bless you and keep you and make His face shine on you.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.

Good Shepherd Church
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