

Worship on Dec 13

(Please print a copy for yourself or download it to a device to follow and sing along during worship)

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Repentance

Candlelighter: As we turn the page on our calendar closer to Christmas, so too we turn our hearts to you O Lord. In turning our hearts we realign ourselves with the truth that “Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.” I light this candle to represent “Repentance” on this third Sunday of Advent, as a beacon to us today, lighting the path to God.

Light the candle

Candlelighter: Joseph turned from his plan to God’s plan.

EVERYONE: Let us turn from our self-interest and realign our hearts with you O Lord!

Prayer: Our Father in heaven, nearer than my breath, thank you for these days of Advent and this new year in Christ. Thank you for this beautiful invitation to repent, to leave behind the futility of behavior management and to set our hearts on realigning with your will, Lord. Thank you that our lives are not our own but yours. Come, Holy Spirit, and teach us how being transformed by YOU works differently than endlessly striving to transform ourselves. In the name of Jesus Messiah—the one who came, is here, and is coming again for his glory and our good. Amen. *(from the Christian New Year, p42-43)*

OPENING SONG: Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

PRAYERS

PRAYER LIST

Recent

- Wanda Propst - COVID
- Wilson Wimer-COVID

Ongoing

- John Raimer (NC Mission contact battling prostate cancer)
- Sandy Rohrer
- Carolyn Shifflet- at Sunnyside
- Sharon Coffman
- the Miller’s
- Grace Martin
- Andy Moyers- at Kings Daughters Health and Rehab
- Hester and Chester Williams
- Peggy Wimer
- Prayers for all of our homebound members.
- Prayers for our nation, our local community, and our congregation.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

MESSAGE Do Hard Things

CLOSING SONG: O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth!

3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

BENEDICTION