

Come, Let Us Worship

After the time of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem wise men came from the East and asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him."

Think of what it means to worship. It is to prostrate oneself before another, in spirit as well as in body, and to declare one's dependence upon him. Imagine this scene—the baby Jesus is in the arms of his mother, and the wise men, like the shepherds before them, bow low before him. Is it right that they do so? Is it perhaps strange that these men of wisdom and many years' experience should be willing to prostrate themselves before a helpless babe? This Jesus must have been an unusual person!

Unusual indeed! It was he whom the prophets had seen. Looking down the corridors of time they saw the shadowy outline of the Messiah who was to come. Hundreds of years before the birth of Christ the prophet Isaiah wrote, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (7:14). In Matthew we read that the birth of Jesus was the event of which this prophecy spoke. Of the angels' visit to Joseph announcing the birth of Christ we read, "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (1:22,23).

The birth of Jesus was the greatest revelation of all time, the appearance of God in human flesh—God with us. That for which all the ages waited happened on this night in Bethlehem. The hopes and fears of all the world met in this little child in a stable. Now was the time of peace and joy. The Savior had come. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins."

The joyous cry of Christmas is this: "The Savior is come!" Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*And...they saw the
young child with
Mary his mother,
and fell down,
and worshipped
him.*

Matthew 2:11

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 214

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 207

*“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”***CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE**

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou hast promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 194

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 210

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

Sermon Text

Luke 23:13-25

Sermon

THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

*Hymn of Response # 203

*“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”***THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING**

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 12:30pm. Potluck luncheon following the morning worship service. All are welcome.

Tuesday, December 24. Please join us for a Christmas Eve hike in Tilden (weather permitting) followed by Board games and Christmas treats at the church. Come for one or both events!

12:30pm - 2ish: Meet at the Brook Picnic Area off of Brook Rd near the Carousel. The hike is a 3-mile loop. (Wildcat Gorge --> Meadows Canyon --> Curran Trail).

~2:30pm - 4:30pm Board Games and Christmas treats at Church. Feel free to invite a friend and bring some Christmas cookies to share if you like. There will be plenty of cookies and hot drinks to enjoy together. Contact Victor (404-384-9668) with any questions.

There is no Tuesday evening Bible Study on December 24 or December 31. The Tuesday Bible Study resumes on January 7.

Sunday, January 5, 2025, 10:00am. The adult Sunday School class will resume. We will be studying the book of Colossians.