



December 29, 2024 – Livestream

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

*O How Beautiful the Sky*

arr. P. Manz

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

**People: We have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!**

Leader: Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

**People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**

\*OPENING HYMN #245

*The First Noel*

***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.***

***Refrain: 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. [Refrain]***

***And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]***

***This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]***

***Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]***

OPENING PRAYER

**Eternal God,**

**by the birth of Jesus Christ, you gave yourself to the world.**

**Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins,**

**and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,**

**to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.**

CAROLS

#237

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

v. 1-3

***Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!***

***Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.***

**Refrain: Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!**

**Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,  
journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest." (Refrain)**

**In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,  
seated by the manger, watching the holy child. (Refrain)**

#218

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

v. 1,3 & 4

**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.**

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #861

Psalm 148

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PRAYER #217

*Away in a Manger*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

***Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Darren Cushman Wood

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

**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, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE #162

*Alleluia, Alleluia*

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY Music

*The Infant Jesus*

P. Yon

Diane Stebbe, Amy Cuomo, soloists

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,  
was born the child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced.  
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced:  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night,  
that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.  
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell  
from paradise to earth He came, that we with Him might dwell.  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

\*DOXOLOGY #94

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:41-52

<sup>41</sup>Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup>He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Brandon Wallace

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #246

*Joy to the World*

***Joy to the world, the Lord is 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.***

***Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.***

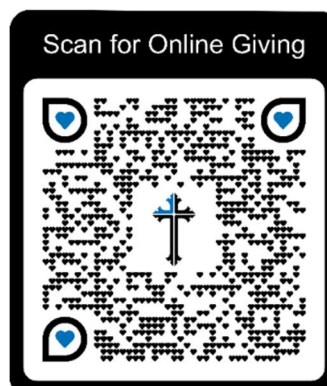
***He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.***

\*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*In dulci jubilo*

J. S. Bach



**Upcoming Events:**

January 19, Retirement Study Begins

January 21, LGBTQ+ Fellowship

January 24, Winter Family Game Night

Scan to sign up for our newsletter:



**This week's worship  
leaders:**

Darren Cushman Wood  
*Senior Pastor*

Brandon Wallace  
*Minister of Christian Education*

John Hague, Allen McCormack  
& Eric Russell

*Audio Visual*

Kathleen Custer

*Guest Organist*