

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Order of Service for the Worship of God

December 14, 2008

3rd Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE *The Holly and the Ivy* ~ Old English Carol Carolyn Wallace, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS John Hildebrand

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *A Carol Festival* Handbell Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH ~ Incorporating Isaiah 2:4; 11:16; 35:1

L: Today is the third Sunday of Advent. We light the third candle of our Advent Wreath as a sign of the coming light of Christ. "Advent" means "coming." We are preparing ourselves for the day:

P: When the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

L: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

P: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.



Third Sunday of Advent

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (vs. 1) #244

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, / Born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us; / Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, / Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, / Joy of every longing heart.*

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

Eternal God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – we thank you for the gift of yourself in Jesus Christ. In this holy season, give us humility and a sense of awe, as we contemplate how you laid aside your glory in heaven, to be born as one of us. Draw near to us as we draw near to you in this time of worship, we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Psalm 28: 6-9

L: Blessed be the LORD! for he has heard the voice of my supplications.

P: The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

L: The LORD is the strength of his people, he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

P: O save your people, and bless your heritage; be their shepherd, and carry them for ever.

***OPENING HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* #271

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ From the Church of Scotland

Lord Jesus Christ, as the anniversary of your birth draws near, we confess that we are often too busy with our festivities to give time to thinking about what it all means. We try to pretend that our preparation of material things is our way of acknowledging your birth; but deep in our hearts we know that these thoughts are shallow and unworthy. We confess too that we sympathize sentimentally with those less fortunate, without really doing much to help them. In so many ways we make Christmas less than it might be by not giving enough thought to the real meaning of your coming. Forgive us and help us, we pray; for your Name's sake.

(Silent prayer and personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI** #813

ANTHEM Selections from *Morning Star*, by Joseph M. Martin Chancel Choir
Rejoice, Rejoice Ye People ~ *Shepherd Carols*

CHILDREN'S LESSON *(No Children's Church during December.)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST GOSPEL LESSON ~ Luke 1: 26-38 ~ Page 887-888 in the pew Bible

In the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

SECOND GOSPEL LESSON ~ Matthew 1: 18-25 ~ Page 835 in the pew Bible

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

L: This is the word of the Lord; **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Third Sunday of Advent ~ The Meaning of the Child" Rev. Frank Wyche

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed* Inside front cover of Hymnal

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *What Child Is This?* #281

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Masters in This Hall* ~ French Carol

***DOXOLOGY** #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (...debts/debtors...)

***HYMN** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (vss. 1-3) #648

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *Song of the Watchman* ~ Grieg/Blake Carolyn Wallace

*Those who are able may stand.

BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.

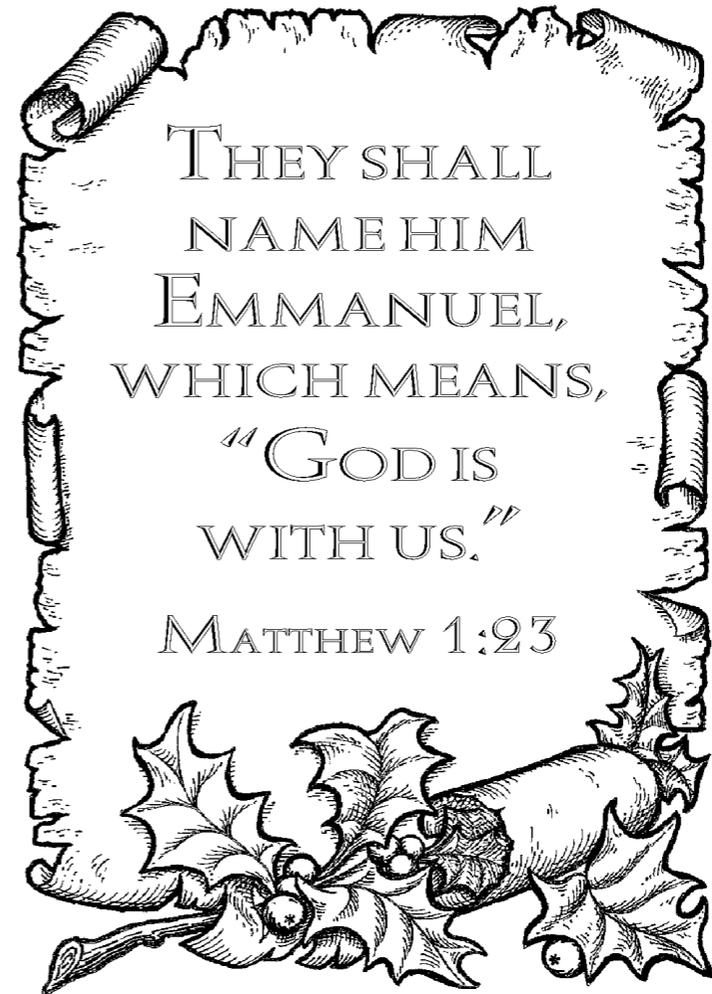
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