



THE LORD IS COME!

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • DECEMBER 25, 2022

CHRISTMAS DAY

Who We Seek to Be

In our love for Christ and guided by God's Word we seek to be a community of

Joyful Worship, thoughtfully centered in the wonder and wisdom of the living God and celebrating the diversity of the body of Christ.

Loving Fellowship, encouraging and serving one another in the unifying love of the Holy Spirit.

Life-changing Learning, biblically-based preaching and teaching to equip children, youth, and adults to grow in their relationship with God.

THE BIRTHDAY OF A KING

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

JOHN ZIMMERMAN

* CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please stand.)*

Leader: Christ is born; give him glory.

**People: Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!
Christ is now on earth; exalt him!**

Leader: O you earth, sing to the Lord!

People: O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

* INVOCATION

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

RON NETZEL

Leader: O God, we need Christ to renew our commitment.

All: We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.

Leader: May your angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.

All: We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.

Leader: May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction.

All: We have turned our faith at times, into a righteous ritual.

Leader: May your manger call us again to expressions of love and devotion.

All: We have carefully kept our gifts and have not freely given our goods and our hearts to you.

Leader: May the Magi show us the spirit of giving.

All: Lord, may your Spirit linger in our hearts and bring renewal in our lives. Amen.

Adapted from The Worship Sourcebook

SONG OF CONFESSION: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (verses 1 and 3)

HYMN 200

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from Luke 2:10-11 NIV*)

Leader: 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. "In him we receive the salvation of God. Glory to God in the highest!"

* SONG OF ACCLAMATION: *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* (hymn 211, verse 1)

(*Please stand*)

**All: God rest you merry, gentlemen,
 Let nothing you dismay.
 Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
 To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:
 O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
 O tidings of comfort and joy.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

(*Please share God's peace with those around you.*)

THANKFULNESS FOR JESUS (*A time of sharing*)

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *The Birthday of a King*

William Neidinger
CHRIS GILMORE

In the little village of Bethlehem
There lay a Child one day,
And the sky was bright with a holy light
O'er the place where Jesus lay.
Alleluia, O how the angels sang!
Alleluia, how it rang!
And the sky was bright
With a holy light;
'Twas the birthday of a King!
'Twas a humble birthplace, but
O how much God gave to us that day!
From the manger bed what a path has led,
What a perfect holy way!
Alleluia . . .

* DOXOLOGY

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

POEM: *O Rex Gentium*

Malcolm Guite
HOWARD WHITAKER

O King of our desire whom we despise,
King of the nations never on the throne,
Unfound foundation, cast-off cornerstone,
Rejected joiner, making many one:
You have no form or beauty for our eyes,
A King who comes to give away his crown,
A King within our rags of flesh and bone.
We pierce the flesh that pierces our disguise,
For we ourselves are found in you alone.
Come to us now and find in us your throne,
O King within the child within the clay,
O hidden King who shapes us in the play
Of all creation. Shape us for the day
Your coming Kingdom comes into its own.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

KEN WOLGEMUTH

* CAROL: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

HYMN 214

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

(Please remain standing for the reading of God's Word.)

READERS: ANDERSON FAMILY

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 52:7-10*

⁷How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"

⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the Lord returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.
⁹ Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The Lord will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Luke 2:1-14*

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *Celebrating the Birthday of the King*

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

- * CLOSING SONG: *Hallelujah Chorus (see separate music)*
- * BENEDICTION
- * POSTLUDE

TODAY

Thanks to our musicians: John Zimmerman, Mary Hopper, Chris Gilmore

Quilt in the narthex: Special thanks for this Christmas work of art, lovingly made by Dottye Luttrell, Carol Wilhoit, and Mimi Larson.

If you have concerns or are **in need of prayer**, elder Ron Netzel will be available to pray with you near the platform.

The Food Pantry is closed today.

This Week

Tuesday	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	No Women's Bible Studies Food Pantry open
Thursday	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Special Food Pantry Hours
Sunday, January 1	10:30 a.m.	Worship Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday, January 3	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Food Pantry Open