

Advent Reading: *Luke 2:9-11*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Advent Prayer

* **Call to Worship:** *Ephesians 5:1-2*
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

* God's Greeting

* **Joy to the World** #171:1,2,4 (HFG)
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 men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

* **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** #184:1,2,3 (HFG)
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

* **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Angels lifting praise before You
Sing throughout this holy night.
In a manger lies a Baby,
Child of Mary, Son of God.
Voices joined in joyful chorus
Praise You for Your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory,
All creation joins to sing.
Praise resounds as earth rejoices
In the birth of Christ, the King.
Shepherds kneel before the Infant.
Trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted,
Joined in wonder, love, and praise.

Call to Confession: *1 John 1:5-7 (ESV)*

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness,

we lie and do not practice the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

we have fellowship with one another,

and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Prayer of Confession

* **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** #169:1,2,3 (HFG)
(Children 3 years old – 2nd grade are invited to Children's Church in the Education Building during this song.)

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

Offertory Prayer

Offering: Envision Mission

Morning Prayer

* **Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery**

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
In the dawning of the King;
He the theme of heaven's praises,
Robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
Now the light of life has come;
Look to Christ, who condescended,
Took on flesh to ransom us.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
He the perfect Son of man;
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
Come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law, in Him we stand.

* **Scripture:** *John 1:1-18 (ESV)* pg. 1107

¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *He was in the beginning with God.* ³ *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.* ⁴ *In him was life, and the life was the light of men.* ⁵ *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

⁶ *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

⁷ *He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.* ⁸ *He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.* ⁹ *The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

¹⁰ *He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.* ¹¹ *He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.* ¹² *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,* ¹³ *who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* ¹⁵ *(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")*

¹⁶ *For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.* ¹⁷ *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* ¹⁸ *No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message: *The Incarnation: A Riches to Rags Story*
~ *Born of the Will of God*

Prayer

* **Meekness and Majesty**

Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity,
In perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity, dwells in humanity;
Kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Refrain: O what a mystery, meekness and majesty;
Bow down and worship, for this is your God.

Wisdom unsearchable, God, the invisible;
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly;
Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne. *Refrain*

* **God's Blessing**

* **Christmas Doxology**

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Worship services are broadcast live in the church basement
for anyone who is unable to worship in the sanctuary.
The sanctuary is equipped with an assistive listening system.
Please switch hearing aids to "T" to use this system.

* indicates to stand if able

Pastor: Robert W

Prayer: Rob H, Jim A

Advent Readers: Dennis & Jeanne J

Music: Mike H, Nancy Z

Offering: Envision Mission and Mitchell Senti work to build
authentic community through Jesus Christ in Bellingham. For
more information, visit www.envisionmission.org.

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The Incarnation: A Riches to Rags Story ***Born of the Will of God***

John 1:1-18

