

**December 18, 2022**

**9:15 AM Common Thread Worship**

“... and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23, NRSV). What message is more comforting and praiseworthy?

Welcome to worship!



## **Welcome**

### **Song – *Hope Was Born This Night***

Tonight I can see a star shine, and its splendor fills up the sky.

It's the same that appeared and the wise men revered, when Hope was born this night.

Out upon the snowy fields there's a silent peace that heals,  
and it echoes the grace of our Savior's embrace because Hope was born this night.

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth, goodwill toward men.

Let all of the world sing a chorus of joy, because Hope was born this night.

I can hear the Christmas bells ring, as softly a church choir sings.

It's the song used to praise the Ancient of Days when Hope was born this night.

There are angels in this place, and my heart resounds with the praise.

Like a shepherd so scared, I'll rejoice and declare that Hope was born this night!

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth, goodwill toward men.

Let all of the world sing a chorus of joy, Because Hope was born this night.

Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Gloria!

Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Gloria!

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth, goodwill toward men.

Let all of the world sing a chorus of joy, because Hope was born this night.

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth, goodwill toward men.

Let all of the world sing a chorus of joy, because Hope was born this night.

I know Hope was born this night, because Christ was born this night!

Ben McDonald & Dave Frey. ©2011 Dayspring Music, LLC, LLC CCLI# 1374588

## **Sharing Peace**

### **Advent Reading**

Cheryl Walfall-Flagg, Sean Flagg & Davante McIver

Leader: God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own.

God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

We light these candles — the candle of hope, of peace, of joy, and today of presence that speaks of love —as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

**ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

## **Children's Message**

## **Prayer Time & Lord's Prayer**

*(To share your joys and concerns, please email them to [prayerrequests@stjamesraleigh.org](mailto:prayerrequests@stjamesraleigh.org), where they will then be shared with our Prayer Chain.)*

**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.**

## **Song – 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 you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Draw near, Lord Jesus, draw near to me and make me clean.

Draw near, Lord Jesus draw near to me.

Draw near Lord Jesus, draw near to me.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask You to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Brad Henderson © 2007 Hendersongs/PraiseCharts CCLI# 1374588

## **Scripture Reading – Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

## **Message – A Father's Love**

Pastor Dan Baer

## **Song – What Child Is This?**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

William Dix, arr. Don Chapman © 2008 Hearts to God Music CCLI# 1374588

**Blessing & Sending Out**

**Sharing Offerings**

**Out to Discipleship, and Into the World to Serve**

## **What to know this week...**

### **Calendar this week:**

TODAY, 12/18 *Living Nativity, 4PM in parking lots\*  
NA, 7PM in Saints Hall*

Tues, 12/20 *Staff Meeting, 10AM in Room 12  
GS Troop 4491, 6:30PM in Montague Hall*

Thurs, 12/22 *Beginning Ukulele (grades 2-6), 5:45PM in Music Room  
Beginning Ukulele (grade 7-adult), 6:15PM in Music Room  
Common Thread Band Rehearsal, 7PM in Carson Hall*

Sat, 12/24 *Common Thread Christmas Eve Worship, 5PM in Carson Hall\*  
Traditional Christmas Eve Worship, 7PM in the Sanctuary\**

Sunday, 12/25 *Merry Christmas!  
ONE worship service, 10AM in the Sanctuary\*  
(no discipleship classes or evening meetings)*

12/26 & 12/27 *Office Closed\**

**\*Living Nativity this evening, 4-6PM:** *We still need some volunteers to help clean up after tonight's Living Nativity event. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to come out and experience the wonder of Bethlehem at Christmas!*

**Last Call for Luminaries!** *The deadline to order Christmas Eve luminaries from the United Women in Faith (UMW) is TODAY. These luminaries will brighten St. James' walkways 4:30-8:30PM on Christmas Eve. Luminaries cost \$3 each and may be purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones. Order forms are available in the weekly email, on the Welcome Center counter, and in the back of both worship spaces. Completed orders can be dropped into worship offering plates or the office door-drop with payment made to UMW.*

**Christmas Eve Special Offering:** *This year our Christmas Eve special offering will benefit the Methodist Home for Children. Please note MHC on your Christmas Eve offering.*

**\*Christmas Eve Worship Times:** *We will offer 2 Christmas Eve worship services: the 5PM Common Thread service will be held in Carson Hall, with options to sit in cars or on the patio (weather permitting) for those who choose to do so. The 7PM traditional service will be held in the sanctuary. Both services will feature Holy Communion and candle-lighting. Nursery will not be available so that children can worship together with their families.*

**\*Christmas Day Worship:** *On Christmas Day, we will offer one combined service at 10AM in the sanctuary, with no discipleship classes meeting that Sunday. Dress is casual and children may bring one quiet toy to share. Nursery will not be available so that children can worship together with their families.*

**\*Office Closing for Christmas:** *Our office hours will be shortened over the holidays to allow our staff to spend time with their families. The office will be closed on December 26-27 and January 2. The office will be open on December 28-29, and on regular hours (9am-2pm Monday-Thursday) beginning January 3.*

**Church contributions for 2022** *must be postmarked, made online, or brought to the church by Saturday, December 31, 2022 to be included on 2022 giving statements. Offerings made on January 1 should be clearly dated for either 2022 or 2023.*

**New Year's Day Worship:** *On New Year's Day, we will continue our Christmas celebration with a service of Lessons and Carols. This will be in a church-wide combined service at 10AM in Carson Hall, with no discipleship classes or nursery meeting that Sunday.*

**Bread Ministry location:** *We've officially moved the bread to the hallway counter behind Carson Hall on Sunday mornings. Please use gloves to take whatever you like, and leave your donations in the marked box on the counter. Thanks for supporting the Bread Ministry!*