

# CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2025

10:00 am



## Good News

### AS WE GATHER

"If it bleeds, it leads." That's the mantra of modern news media. Good news doesn't seem to get the traction that destruction and division do. But good news is what God speaks through His Son, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. God publishes peace, salvation, and the good news of happiness through the Word and reminds us, "Your God reigns" (Isaiah 52:7) For all, we pray this Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate.

We give thanks that salvation has come. "The LORD has bared His holy arm" (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.

**WELCOME** – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

### 376 Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### LIGHTING OF THE WREATH *Psalm 100*

Pastor: On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd.  
 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

**People:**     **Serve the LORD with gladness!**

Pastor:     Come into His presence with singing!

**People:**     **Know that the LORD, He is God!**

Pastor:     It is He who made us, and we are His;

**People:**     **we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

Pastor:     Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

**People:**     **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

Pastor:     For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

**People:**     **and His faithfulness to all generations.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**     *John 1:1, 4–5, 9; Isaiah 9:6; 52:10*

Pastor:     In the beginning was the Word,

**People:**     **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

Pastor:     In Him was life,

**People:**     **and the life was the light of men.**

Pastor:     The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**People:**     **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

Pastor:     For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**People:**     **and the government shall be upon His shoulder,**

Pastor:     and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**People:**     **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor:     The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

**People:**     **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *John 1:4–5; Isaiah 52:10*

Pastor: Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.

**People: We are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**

Pastor: John writes in our Gospel lesson, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

**People: Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.**

Pastor: For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**People: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, in ages past, You spoke through the prophets. Today You have spoken to us through Your Son, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. Tune our ears to Your Word and nourish us with the flesh and blood of Your Son, who is always with us; through the same Jesus Christ, who rules and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 52:7–10*

(The Lord's coming salvation)

**The Herald of the Gospel**

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,  
 who proclaims peace and preaches good news,  
 who proclaims salvation,  
 who says to Zion, "Your God is king!"

<sup>8</sup> The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.  
 Together they shout for joy,  
 because with both eyes they will see it  
 when the LORD returns to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,  
 because the LORD is comforting his people.  
 He is redeeming Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
 and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 1:1–6*

(God Speaks to Us By His Son)

**1** In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. **2** In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. **3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

**4** The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

**5** For to which of the angels did God ever say: You are my Son, today I have begotten you? And again: I will be his Father, and he will be my Son. **6** And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said: Let all God's angels worship him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

*Soloist / Kurt Menhart*



### **HOLY GOSPEL** *John 1:1–14*

(The Word became flesh.)

Reader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**People: He was in the beginning with God.**

Reader: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

**People: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Reader: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

**People: He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.**

Reader: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.

**People: He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.**

Reader: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**People: 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.**

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

**MESSAGE** – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

**CREED** *Nicene Creed Confessed responsively for Christmas*

Pastor: I believe in one God,

**People: the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

Pastor: And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**People: the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;**

*(Please bow your head)*

Pastor: who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven.

**People: and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;**

*(Raise your head)*

Pastor: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

**People: He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

Pastor: And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**People: the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray in song and in words spoken for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.

### ***361 O Little Town of Bethlehem***

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
 Descend to us, we pray;  
 Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
 Be born in us today.  
 We hear the Christmas angels  
 The great glad tidings tell;  
 O come to us, abide with us,  
 Our Lord Immanuel!

Pastor: Father, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world as an infant, to be our Savior and to forgive our sins.

**People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

***364 Away in a Manger***

3 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 take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Pastor: Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us; You came from heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

**People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

**358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the water of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

**People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received, and kept unto life eternal.**

Pastor: Gracious Lord, You have bared Your holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, that the ends of the earth shall see Your salvation. Even amid Christmas peace and joy, we experience the hurt and harm of this world. Reach out to all those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, with Your holy arm of comfort and presence that they may be strengthened in their time of need.

O God, we boldly and confidently lift these prayers to You, trusting in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

**We invite our guests and members to fill out our Friendship Card** during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle.

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE** *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we by faith give thanks for the salvation You have bestowed upon Your people, baring Your holy arm before all the nations; for You came from heaven to earth as one of us, as an infant for the hope of humanity and restoration as Redeemer. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 and ever. Amen.**

## PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

***Please see our communion policy stated on the inside front cover.***

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION WINE: For those who may not be able to take regular wine, we offer non-alcoholic wine. The non-alcoholic wine is the light-colored wine in the center of the communion tray.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

## 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** Let us pray. In former days, O Lord, You required sacrifices for sin and spoke to our ancestors through the prophets. But in these last days, You have atoned for our sins through the blood of Your Son, through whom You have spoken to us. Lead us to bring good news of happiness and to publish peace and salvation as we lift up our voices and sing for joy; for You reign, one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

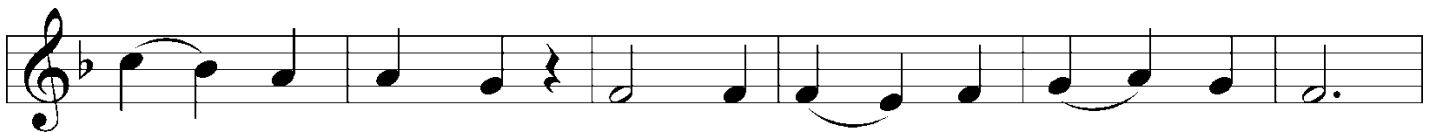
**Pastor:** Christmas peace and joy through God's infinite love given in Christ, His only-begotten Son, be yours; and the blessing of God Almighty—Father, ✕ Son, and Holy Spirit—be and abide with you forever.

**People:** Amen.

## 940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we  
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -  
 4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,  
 bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
 born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy  
 In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with  
 As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.  
 sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!  
 bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav'n to faith.



**Need some PRAYER?** Anyone who desires special private prayer with a pastor or a Stephen Minister may do so by coming forward after service to one of the front pews.

**Our Vision** — a place to come for comfort, support, answers, opportunities  
 to serve, and to strengthen a salvation relationship with Jesus



**Where We Serve**

<i>Preacher/Officiant</i>	<i>Christopher Fairbairn</i>
<i>Music Director</i>	<i>Paul Ventimiglia</i>
<i>Guest Musician</i>	<i>Justin Dotson / Guitarist</i>
<i>Guest Vocalist</i>	<i>Kurt Menhart</i>
<i>Family Life</i>	<i>Jeanette Koch</i>
<i>Elder</i>	<i>Bob McGuigan</i>
<i>Greeters</i>	<i>McGuigan Family</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>John Hasse Charleen Hill Bob McGuigan Pat McGuigan</i>
<i>Tech Team</i>	<i>Chris Baetz</i>

***Please JOIN US for New Year's Eve  
Worship at 6 PM***