

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2018

10:00 am



Perspective: **Infinite Gifts in Finite Wrappings**

AS WE GATHER

Whether your family exchanges Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day (or at all), Christians gather here to celebrate, receive, and unwrap the perfect Gift, that is, Jesus Christ Himself. The wrapping paper in our homes temporarily covers a gift and is soon thrown away, but Jesus comes to us this day by His Means of Grace to give to us infinite things we can't find anywhere else—the love of His life, the forgiveness of sins, and the salvation of our souls. We rejoice in the gift of the Child wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in the manger, knowing the great gifts the Lord comes to bring for us and for the whole world through the Savior given and born for us.

PRELUDE

"Divinum Mysterium"

C. Callahan

WELCOME – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

CHRISTMAS HYMN

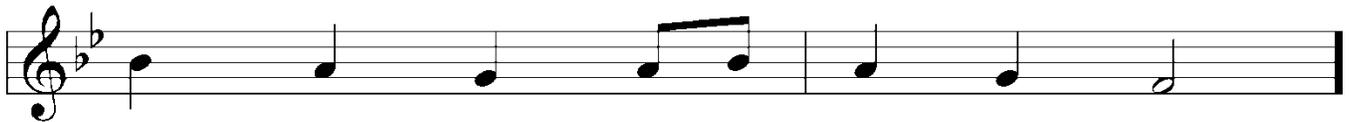
367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain
 Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Worship Christ the newborn King! His name is Jesus.

People: He comes to save us from our sins.

Pastor: His title is Immanuel.

People: He is God with us.

Pastor: Today we rejoice!

People: For God has kept His precious promise to us.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Amid our Christmas joy, let us confess our sins.

People: Mighty God, on this day of celebration, we confess our sin to You. We are by nature sinful. Without Your help, we are powerless to overcome it. We confess our impatience with You and with others, our seeking after worldly passions, and our self-indulgent ways of life. By our sin, we have hurt others, ourselves, and You. We plead with You to forgive our sins for the sake of Christ and to transform our broken lives.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given the gracious gift of His Son to be born into this world, wrapped in our flesh, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice that for His sake He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live among us, to die for us, and to rise in victory for us. 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.

CHRISTMAS SONG (Please be seated)**Joy to the World**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n
and nature sing.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, You sent Your Son to be born into this world as a flesh-and-blood human being, so that we are now saved from the eternal consequence of sin through His cross. Help us to receive this amazing gift with gratitude, that our lives may be shaped by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, who, with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, live and reign forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT Hebrews 1:1-6 (*God speaks by His Son.*)

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. ³ The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. ⁴ This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

⁵ For God never said to any angel what he said to Jesus:

"You are my Son.

Today I have become your Father."

God also said,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son."

⁶ And when he brought his supreme Son into the world, God said,
"Let all of God's angels worship him."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL John 1:1-14 (Berean Study Bible) **The Birth of Jesus**

Reader: ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that has been made.

People: ⁴ **4 In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome a it.**

Reader: ⁶ There came a man who was sent from God. His name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through him everyone might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

⁹ The true Light who gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

¹² But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of blood, nor of the desire or will of man, but born of God.

People: ¹⁴ **The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Reader: This is the Gospel of our Lord's birth.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ, our newborn King.**

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,

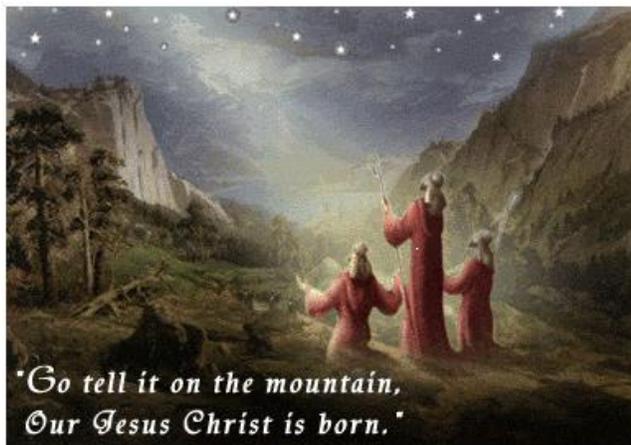
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

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;**

(Kneel or bow)

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;**

(Stand)

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: All powerful God, You stirred up the power of Your love in sending Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be born into this broken world. We bring our prayers to You on this Christmas Day, trusting that You hear our cries for the Church, the world, and all people in need.

Stir up the power of Your Church, O Lord. Guide the leaders of our church to plan and do things boldly that bring glory to You. Lead our pastors, teachers, and all church workers to tell of Your promises kept. Shape the lives of all the people of the Church to be a servant people in the world. Embolden missionaries to proclaim Jesus with great joy.

People: Hear us, Lord, as we rejoice in Your promises kept.

Pastor: Stir up the power of Your peace, O Lord. Guide the leaders of nations to strive for peace among and within nations. Lead our state and local officials to carry out their duties uprightly and for the good of all. Heal those whose lives have been shattered by warfare, violence, or persecution. Stabilize those whose lives seem to be in constant turmoil.

People: Hear us, Lord, as we rejoice in Your promises kept.

Pastor: Stir up the power of Your presence, O Lord. Heal those who are sick—the hospitalized and those facing surgery—according to Your will. Accompany the dying with a heaping measure of Your mercy. Comfort those who mourn the death of a loved one, and fill them with hope. Provide for the poor, the forgotten, the neglected, and use us as Your hands to do so.

People: Hear us, Lord, as we rejoice in Your promises kept.

Pastor: Stir up the power of Your promises kept, O Lord. Protect and strengthen marriages and family commitments. Bless those committed to the care of our community—doctors, firefighters, police, and social workers. Help us to make our actions consistent with our words. Spur us on to live each day faithfully committed to following Jesus.

People: Hear us, Lord, as we rejoice in Your promises kept.

Pastor: We entrust our prayers to Your never-failing mercy to us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

People: Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

We invite you to fill out our Friendship Card during the offering which is found on the back of the pew. Please pass your card to the center aisle and leave in pew.

OFFERING

**Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Erin Franklin, soprano**

R. MacGimsey

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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:

389 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

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.

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

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.

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

POSTLUDE

"Gloria"

H. Gehrke

Be sure to visit us @: stpaulnorthville.org

May We Help You? Anyone who desires special private prayer with the Pastor may do so by remaining in the church until all worshippers have departed. At that time, come forward and speak with the Pastor.

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Where We Serve

Preacher/Officiant

Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

Music Director

Jesse Torres-Palasiq

Elder

Bob McGuigan

Organist

Marty Giltinan

Reader

Jacob Fairbairn

Ushers

*Charleen Hill
John Hasse
Pat McGuigan*

*Gary Sixt
Bob McGuigan*

Welcome Center

Christine Lewis

Greeter

Pat McGuigan
