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**Leading our community into a deep connection in Christ**

**Worship Service for December 20, 2020 at 11 AM**

**Welcome**

**Pray for the Food** - **People get food**

**Invocation**

**Confession and Forgiveness:**

P: As we gather, today, let us cleanse our hearts and our consciences by confessing our sin to God.

(Time of silence for reflection and confession)

C: Heavenly Father, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you and against our neighbor in our thoughts, words, and actions.  We are truly sorry for our sins and sincerely repent of them. We ask for Your mercy. For the sake of Jesus Christ's bitter suffering and death, please forgive us and renew us that we may walk in Your Spirit to the glory of Your holy name.

P: The Lord has heard your confession. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Lord, in the stead and by the command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

**Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving**

**Angels From The Realms of Glory (Emmanuel)**Angels from the realms of glory Wing your flight o'er all the earth
You who sang creation's story Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds in the field abiding Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing Yonder shines the infant light
Come and worship, Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lieAbove the dark and dreamless sleep the silent stars go byYet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting lightThe hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend on us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, their great glad tidings tell,
O come to us, abide with us, our lord, Emanuel.

**Epistle Reading:**Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**Gospel Reading:**Luke 1:26–38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**Sermon Hymn:** He Shall Reign Forevermore
In the bleak mid-winter, all creation groans
For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone
Light is breaking, in a stable for a throne

Chorus:
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
Unto us a child is born, The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

If I were a wise man, I would travel far
And if I were a shepherd, I would do my part
But poor as I am, I will give to Him my heart

Chorus:
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
Unto us a child is born, The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Here within a manger lies The One who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice, Christ, the Messiah
Into our hopes, into our fears, The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years, Christ, the Messiah

Chorus 2:
He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
Unto us a child is born, The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

**Sermon** – The Lord Comes...As King

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.”

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house...

...And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

**Prayers**

**Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**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

**Words of Institution**

**Distribution**

**Prayer**

**Benediction**

 **Closing Song:** Emmanuel (Hollowed Manger Ground)

What hope we hold this starlit night
a King is born in Bethlehem
Our journey long, we seek the light
that leads to the hallowed manger ground

What fear we felt in the silent age
four hundred years can he be found
But broken by a baby's cry
rejoice in the hallowed manger ground

Chorus:
Emanuel, Emanuel
God incarnate here to dwell
Emanuel, Emanuel
Praise His name Emanuel

The son of God Here, born to bleed
A crown of thorns Would pierce His brow
And we beheld this offering
Exalted now, the King of kings
Praise God For the hallowed manger ground

Chorus

Praise His name Emanuel

**Offering**

**Upcoming Events**

**December 24, 6pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Song and Dance Studio

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