

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 31 – 9 A.M.
“GROWING IN GOD”**

PRESERVICE MUSIC “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen / We Three Kings”

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day;
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father
This blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to that perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain;
Gold I bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to that perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Worship Him, God Most High.

O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to that perfect light.

God rest ye merry, gentlemen
God rest ye merry, gentlemen
God rest ye merry, gentlemen...

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen / We Three Kings" Public Domain CCLI Song: 39441 CCLI License: 51072

"Take A Walk Through Bethlehem"

The city's decorated up for Christmas
All the stores are open late tonight
People hurry through the frozen streets
I take a walk

Every child has a thousand wishes
Every window has a thousand lights
Every soul has a need for peace
I take a walk

There's a star
That still outshines the night
You can find it if you close your eyes
See the light

Take a walk through Bethlehem
Come and kneel before the Lamb
Good news for every man
Walk through Bethlehem

Every night, another TV special
Merchants counting down the shopping days
But something's missing underneath the tree
I take a walk

'Cause every heart longs for more than tinsel
Something more than just a holiday
Come and celebrate the Baby King
Let's take a walk

You don't have to travel anywhere
Faith and hope and love
Will bring you there
Bring you there

Take a walk through Bethlehem
Come and kneel before the Lamb
Good news for every man
Walk through Bethlehem

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"Take A Walk Through Bethlehem" written by John Jarvis, Wally Wilson, and Ashley Cleveland Public Domain CCLI License: 51072

WORSHIP THEME: "Growing in God" Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that he would someday see the Messiah before his earthly death. Led by the Spirit, Simeon met Jesus who was just a child in the temple courts. He immediately knew that Jesus was the Messiah who would bring salvation to the world. Anna also prophesied over Jesus' future redemption of Jerusalem. Joseph

and Mary marveled at the words spoken over their Son. When we read this story, we see Jesus as a Child who grows in stature, wisdom, and in the favor of His Father. We, too, are encouraged to spiritually grow as children of God.

+ We Lift Our Hearts in Worship +

OPENING 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 to all men
Let all of the world sing the 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 to all men
Let all of the world sing the 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 to all men
Let all of the world sing the chorus of joy
Because hope was born this night**

**Glory to God in the highest
Peace on Earth, goodwill to all men
Let all of the world sing the chorus of joy
Because hope was born this night**

**I know hope was born this night
Because Christ was born this night**

*"Hope Was Born This Night" written by Ben McDonald, David Frey 2010 Dayspring Music, LLC CCLI Song: 5873296
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INVOCATION

Pastor: Greetings one and all and welcome!

People: **How good it is to gather together in the name of the Lord.**

Pastor: May our faith be strengthened and the Lord be present as we congregate.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Great and mighty God, we say hallelujah!

People: **Hallelujah!**

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

People: **Praise the Lord!**

Pastor: Oh Lord, how awesome is Your name in all the earth. We are Your children and You hold us in the palm of Your hand where we are safe and loved by You. Grow our faith and love for You. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Father, even when You give us all that we need...

People: **We covet for more.**

Pastor: Even when You promise to be with us...

People: **We fear being alone.**

Pastor: You are sufficient for us, yet we still stray from Your guidance. We doubt Your truth and settle for the lies of the world.

People: **Forgive us, Father.**

Pastor: You forgave us when You sent Your Son to die on the cross for our sins and rise from the grave three days later. You grafted us into Your vine. You adopted us as sons and daughters into Your family. You love us and call us to forgive others the way You have forgiven us.

People: By Your grace, we will forgive those who have wronged us. We will share the love that You have lavished on us.

Pastor: Thank You, Lord.

People: Amen.

+ We Hear God's Word +

Isaiah 61:10-62:3(ESV)(page 4 in bulletin) (on page 1158 in NIV pew Bible)

Galatians 4:4-7(ESV) (page 5 in bulletin) (on page 1813 in NIV pew Bible)

Luke 2:22-40(ESV)(page 5 in bulletin) (on page 1591 in NIV pew Bible)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 thence 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

SERMON SONG* *"How Many Kings"

**Follow the star to a place unexpected
Would you believe after all we've projected
A child in a manger
Lowly and small the weakest of all
Unlikeliest hero wrapped in His mother's shawl
Just a Child
Is this who we've waited for 'cause**

**How many kings stepped down from their thrones
How many lords have abandoned their homes
How many greats have become the least for me
And how many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me**

**Bringing out gifts for the newborn Savior
All that we have whether costly or meek
Because we believe**

Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer
Do you believe
Is this who we've waited for

How many kings stepped down from their thrones
How many lords have abandoned their homes
How many greats have become the least for me
And how many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me

How many kings stepped down from their thrones
How many lords have abandoned their homes
How many greats have become the least for me
How many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me

Only one did that for me

*"How Many Kings" written by Jason Germain, Marc Martel © 2006 Centricity Music Publishing
Scripture Reference: John 6:42, Luke 2:11-14, Phillipians 2:5-9, Titus 3:5-7 CCLI Song: 5351880 CCLI License: 51072*

9AM MESSAGE by Rev. E. Wade Helmkamp

OFFERING SONG....."Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

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 th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

*"Hark The Herald Angels Sing" written by Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Public Domain
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+ We Pray +

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

+ We Depart in Peace +

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Be filled with the Spirit and allow Him to change you from the inside out! Go in peace and with the strength of the Lord.

People: Amen!

CLOSING SONG..... “Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)”

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 Earth, 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

Joy, Unspeakable joy
Overflowing well no tongue can tell
Joy Unspeakable joy
Rises in my soul, never lets me go.

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

Joy, Unspeakable joy
Overflowing well no tongue can tell
Joy Unspeakable joy
Rises in my soul, never lets me go.

"Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)" written by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, George Frideric Handel, Isaac Watts, Matt Gilder
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We Exit to Serve!

If this service has moved you spiritually and you have questions regarding your spiritual life, please feel free to visit with one of the Pastors after the service.