



December 11, 2022—8:30 am and 9:45 am
Sanctuary

The only people whose souls can truly magnify the Lord are people like Elizabeth and Mary—people who acknowledge their lowly estate and are overwhelmed by the condescension of the magnificent God.
—John Piper, "Joy to the World: Daily Readings for Advent"

Prelude *Sing We Now of Christmas* setting by Anna Laura Page

*The prelude is a bridge from our busy lives into this hour of worship.
Feel free to greet one another during this time, or to quiet your heart in prayer and reflection.*

Community Life Update

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy Luke 2:46-55

*Hymn of Entrance Hymnal, 194

⁵ O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Words: Trad. Latin, 12th c., Music: Plainsong, 13th c.

*Call to Worship Matthew 1:23

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"
(which means, God with us).

*Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn of Praise

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of nought and with his blood mankind has bought
Words: Traditional English carol, from Sandy's "Christmas Carols" (1833), arr. John Stainer, Public Domain

* Please stand if you are able.

Sacrament of Baptism (9:45)

Beckham Rhodes Grumbles
son of Rob and Madeline Grumbles
assisted by Ruling Elder, Bud Shevick

Blessing to Our Covenant Children (9:45)

French Huguenot Blessing

Blessed child of the Covenant, for you God made the world.
For you the prophets and patriarchs were sent. For you the covenants and promises were given.
For you God's revelation was written down.
For you our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ became a man,
lived a perfect life, died upon the cross, and was raised again for your salvation.
You cannot possibly know these things now,
but we your church promise to tell them to you until you make them your own.

Doxology (9:45)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!
Words: Thomas Ken, 1709; Music: OLD HUNDEREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Affirmation of Faith

from The Heidelberg Catechism, #35-36

Q. What does it mean that he "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?
A. That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David's true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.
Q. How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?
A. He is our mediator and, in God's sight, he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness my sinfulness in which I was conceived.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 49:13-16

Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Grace and Peace

Luke 2:8-11, I John 4:18

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

Choral Meditation

Gloria in excelsis,
Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax.

Glory in the highest,
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Words: from Luke 2:14; Music: Dan Forrest, from "Lux: The Dawn from on High;" © 2018, The Music of Dan Forrest

*Hymn of Joy

K4-K5 may leave for Kids Ministry.

8:30 am—One parent will need to escort the child to volunteers in the Commons Area for Kids Church.

9:45 am—One parent will need to escort the child downstairs to join Kids Sunday School.

¹ **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!"

Hymnal, 203

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

² Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

³ Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Words: Charles Wesley, Public Domain, 1739; Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Public Domain, 1840

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Series: Gifts From God

Andy Lewis, Lead Teaching Pastor

Hymn of Offering (8:30)

Hymnal, 198

Choir: ¹**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!**
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.

***All (please stand):** ⁴**Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

⁵**Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

Words: George Weissel, Public Domain, 1642; Music: Psalmodia Evangelica, Public Domain, 1789

*Hymn of Response

¹ Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

² Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.

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.

⁴ He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts, Public Domain, 1719; Music: George F. Handel, Public Domain, 1742.

*Benediction

*Postlude

*We are grateful for your sacrificial giving that supports the work of this church. To give, you can visit give.mitchellroad.org.
Tithes and Offerings may also be placed in the giving box at the exits of the Sanctuary as you leave.*

The flowers this morning are given in loving memory of Merle Smith by his wife, MaryAnn Smith.

Assisting in Worship Today:

Preacher: Andy Lewis, Lead Teaching Pastor

Liturgist: Curtis DuBose, Equip the Church Pastor (8:30); Stephen Reel, MRCA Head of School (9:45)

Advent Season at Mitchell Road— “Gifts From God”

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Today and December 18—Normal schedule, Sunday School, Kids Church & Nursery

December 25 (Christmas Day) and January 1 (New Years Day)

9:45 and 11:00 in Sanctuary (Nursery crib to K3 at 9:45 am only, No Sunday School, No Kids Church)

Christmas Celebration with Choirs and Orchestra: Tonight, 4:30 and 6:30 pm in Sanctuary (Nursery crib to K3 and K4/K5 Kids Church)

Choir and orchestra concert of beloved carols, including those by Artist-in-Residence Dan Forrest

Cookies and Carols: Sunday, December 18 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall (No nursery)

Fellowship and fun for all ages with a cookie baking contest and singing of heart-warming Christmas favorites. To enter the cookie contest, bring 2 dozen of your favorite cookies to share with others! Prizes for best overall, best tasting, best decorated, and crowd favorite.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24

4:30 Sanctuary, 4:45 Fellowship Hall, 6:30 Sanctuary (Nursery crib to K3 at 4:30 and 4:45 only)

Our annual candlelight service celebrating our Savior's birth