

Worship Service for December 7, 2025

Welcome and Announcements Linell Pike

Thank you to all who helped with the hanging of the greens. The fellowship room looks amazing.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the holiday cookie sale. Our local food shelves will greatly appreciate it.

The theme for Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering (RMMO) 2025 is: Worthy of Love. "Let all that you do be done in love" 1 Cor 16:14. December 7th is our annual day of special offering. Please check the poster or contact one of the mission's committee members (Linell Pike, Bonnie Lincoln or Bryan Richhiemer) for more information.

Upcoming Events

Today after service We will be visiting some of our church families with some holiday carols. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Monday & Tuesday Pastor Theresa will not have office hours.

Tuesday 7pm via zoom History of Carols

Wednesday 5pm at church or via zoom Prudential meeting

Sunday 8:30 Mary Martha breakfast meeting

Happy Birthday to:

Olivia Slade on Wednesday; Jean Pearson on Thursday.

Thank you to Ken & Theresa Taylor for the poinsettias in loving memory of Uncle Gerald Beers & Uncle Lester (Sonny) Beers

Lighting of the Peace candle: Alvie McKinstry & Ken Taylor

Pastor Theresa: Candle of Peace.

Advent means coming. It is a time of longing, watching and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be evermore vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, advent is a Season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's prayer: "the kingdom come". As believers, the good news we strive to live by and declare is: that love is stronger than hate; peace, more enduring than war; hope more powerful than despair and the light of God will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt. May God's peace be renewed in your hearts this advent season.

Reader One: Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we light a candle of peace.

Reader Two: Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been remade into ploughshares, we light a candle of peace.

Reader One: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Reader Two: May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming on earth as it already is in heaven.

Reader One: Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

Reader two:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Light the second candle in your Advent wreath.)

Pastor Theresa - Father, we ask that You prepare our hearts for Your coming. Clear the paths in our lives that keep us from You, and make room in our hearts for Your peace and presence. May we welcome You with open hearts and lives prepared for Your glory. Amen.

Prelude: Christmas Offering

Verse 1

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star.
While angels sang to lowly shepherds.
Three wise men seeking truth, they traveled from afar;
Hoping to find the child from Heaven.
Falling on their knees,
They bowed before the humble, Prince of Peace.

Chorus 1

We bring an offering of worship, to our King
No one on earth deserves the praises, that we sing.
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due.
Oh Lord, I bring an offering to You.

Verse 2

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love.
There is no shadow in Your presence.
No mortal man, would dare to stand before Your throne,
Before the Holy One of Heaven.
It's only by Your blood, it's only through Your mercy,
Lord, I come

Chorus 2x

Ending

We bring an offering to You

Paul Baloche
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Call to Worship ~Advent Prayer (based on Luke 1: 26-38)

Most High God, for you nothing is impossible.
Through a poor young woman, in a small town,
you gave birth to your realm of endless glory.
By your Holy Spirit, fill us with new life
and hope

and overshadow us with your power and grace
so that we, like Mary, might be your servants,
bearing witness to the promise of your Word;
through Jesus Christ, who is coming to reign.

Hymn: O Holy Night

Verse 1

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices.
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Chorus 1

Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices.
O night divine,
O night, when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night,
O night divine.

Verse 2

Led by the light, of faith serenely beaming.
With glowing hearts, by His cradle we stand.
So led by light, of a star, sweetly gleaming.
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger.
In all our trials, born to be our Friend.

Chorus 2

He knows our need. To weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King.
Before Him lowly bend.
Behold your King,
Before Him lowly bend

Verse 3

Truly He taught us to love one another.
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother.
And in His name, all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we.
Let all within us, praise His holy name.

Chorus 3

Christ is the Lord.
O praise His name forever.
His power and glory,
Evermore proclaim.
His power and glory,
Evermore proclaim.

Adolphe Charles Adam, John Sullivan Dwight, Placide Cappeau

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Praying Together ~

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory
forever, Amen**

Hymn - #144 Blue hymnal - O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Verse 1

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,

The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth,
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years,
Are met in thee tonight.

Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep,
their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together,
Proclaim the holy birth.
Your voices raise to God in praise;
And peace to all on earth.

Verse 3

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts,
The joys of Highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

Verse 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 God, Emmanuel.

Lewis Henry Redner, Phillips Brooks

Intro to sermon - Rev Dr Theresa Taylor

Scripture text - Luke 1:26-38

Luke 1:26-38: In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called [\[b\]](#) the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Sermon - "The Wonder of Peace" Rev Dr Theresa Taylor

Hymn: #119 Blue hymnal: O Come O Come Emmanuel

Verse 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Chorus

Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Verse 2

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here!
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

Verse 3

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go. Refrain

Verse 4

O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Refrain

John Mason Neale, Thomas Helmore
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Communion

Doxology

Benediction –

Be people of peace – let peace live in your heart and share the peace of Christ with all those you meet.
Share our peace by acting out of compassion and not fear. Share peace by listening to all sides of the story.

Finally, share peace by praying for our world amen.

Purpose:

To share the love of Jesus.

Vision:

Beacon of hope, welcoming all.

Mission:

Worship God, Follow Jesus, Rely on the Holy Spirit, and Love
Everyone.