



The life of the church mirrors the gospel pattern in the life of a disciple. This is demonstrated in our **order of worship** (the bulletin you are holding): Opening moments offer recognition of the greatness and goodness of God that naturally folds into confession, assurance of pardon, songs of thanksgiving, instruction, and a charge to serve God in response to His grace in Christ.



*Come then, let us hasten yonder;
Here let all, great and small,
Kneel in awe and wonder.
Let him who with love is yearning;
Hail the Star that from afar
Bright with hope is burning.*

Paul Gerhardt, *All My Heart this Night Rejoices*

Order of Worship

December 12, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Celebrating His Presence

Preparation for Worship



We believe everyone **worships** something and that we will inevitably imitate and serve what we worship.



Prelude

SMPC Music Team

Call to Worship

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

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 Lord Emmanuel.

Invocation

A Gospel Moment

The Prayer of Confession and Repentance

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ You came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted the news to be good. We have closed our eyes to Your glory, expecting little and hoping little. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may walk in Your favor and live in the truth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.



The gospel moment is a time we use to re-mind people of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. By His obedience we are justified, and by His death are reconciled to God. As we apprehend this we are ready to confess our sin.



*Since we understand that we are redeemed sinners, we agree with God about our sin to the end that we might be confirmed in the forgiveness and absolution we have in Christ. This pattern of **confession** makes way for affirmation and confirmation of God's covenant promise that He assures every believer of pardon for the sake of Christ's obedience and substitution.*



Assurance of Pardon

People: Thanks be to God!



For assurance of pardon, the man who has faith is the man who is no longer looking at himself and no longer looking to himself. He looks entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, and rests on that alone". –Martyn Lloyd-Jones



Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from the tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

The Blessing

Minister: The grace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Baptism of Covenant Child

Gunnar Morse

Advent Reading and Lighting of Candles

The Salinas family

Greeting One Another in the Name of the Lord

Experiencing Renewal

Prince of Heaven

Earth in shadow, restlessly hold, labor's waiting, in silent hope
For the promise, it longs to know what heaven holds.

Then the angels, in holy haste lift their anthem, your Savior lays
In a manger, in humble form, your King is Born!

Chorus: Hail, the Prince of Heaven comes,
Angel choirs sound the call;
For this babe wrapped in a cloth is
The incarnate Word of God.
All the kingdom and its power,
Resting now in this child,
Prince of Heaven, Jesus, hope of the world.

This means mercy in fullest form, loving-kindness forevermore;
Son of David and Son of God, He is Christ, the Lord. (*chorus*)

Prince of Heaven, Jesus, hope of the world.

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."

✠
Now that we
have
reenacted the
story of the
gospel as a
church
community.
We now
experience
the renewal
merited for us
by Jesus
Christ. We
express this
renewal in
our singing
praises to
Jesus for His
great mercy
towards us.

✠

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

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

✠
*Jesus, our shepherd,
prays with us
and for us. We
pray the
pastoral
prayer
expecting the
Holy Spirit to
minister Jesus'
benefits to us
as He prays for
us.*



Pastoral Prayer

Song of Preparation to Hear God's Word

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.



Receiving of tithes and offerings is not an "add on" to the service. It is part of worship. We demonstrate our trust in God's present provision and hope in our future with Him by supporting the spread of the Gospel. You will find baskets for your tithes at the rear of the sanctuary.



If giving to the benevolence fund either use an envelope and check 'benevolence' for cash offerings or designate the amount for benevolence on your check.



Benediction is a pronouncement of God's favor upon His assembled people.



Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Song of Response

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a 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.

'Fear not, then,' said the angel, 'let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might.'
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoic-ed much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

(There is white grape juice or red wine available; also gluten-free bread is available in the smaller plate)

Benediction

