

NPC Celebration of Worship
December 8th, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Prelude

Call to Worship - (*responsively*)

One: As this season of sparkle and bright unfolds before us, the silent prayers of peace lie like stars hidden in a clouded night.

All: May we inspire the world with peace. May we touch it to our lives that in every place of stress, frustration or fear, we might feel the presence of peace easing our hearts and transforming our lives.

One: May we share in its healing power with our families and friends

All: that they may become the inspiration through which peace makes its way to a new yet-dremp-t-of world.

One: (lights candle)

All: May peace light the world this Christmas.

† Hymn #107 (*Glory To God Hymnal*)

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

**1 Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.**

**2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
whose humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving kindness,**

the thunder of the anthems roll
to shatter all hate and injustice.

3 In deepest night Christ's coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song,
a lame one leaps in wonder,
the weak are raised above the strong,
and weapons are broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though cold the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer,
and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share,
and bring us at last into glory.

A time for meditation

† Response to meditation (*hymn # 582—Glory To God Hymnal*)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Fill us with your Holy Spirit, O GOD, so that we might be moved in this time to heights we cannot achieve on our own. Grant unto us now the ability to go beyond our limits, so that we might experience you more fully. In the name of the Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

† Hymn #93 (*Glory To God Hymnal*)

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

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!

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.

First Reading

Philippians 1.3-11

Second Reading

Malachi 3.1-4

Third Reading

Mark 1.1-11

ONE: May we approach that which is sacred through this
reading and in this time

ALL: Now and always, Let us so do.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Fry

† Hymn #133 (*Glory To God Hymnal*)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2 God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created; [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

† Affirmation of Faith—*The Apostles' Creed*—(unison)

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayers

Silent Prayer—Corporate Prayer—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 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.*

Offering - Offertory

† Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Holy Spirit evermore!
Praise Triune God whom we adore!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† Prayer of Thanksgiving (*responsively*)

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You call us, O GOD, to live in such a manner that we would create more holiness and sacredness all around us. Give us the strength, and help us so to do. So be it.

SENDING

† Hymn #132 (*Glory To God Hymnal*)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

† **Charge and Blessing**