



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**December 25, 2022 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**Christmas Day**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome and Call to Worship**

Erin Conaway

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

**Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.**

One: For no matter who you are or where you've been, you matter to God and to us.

**Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.**

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

**Piano Meditation**

Tommy Edds, *piano*

**Spreading the Christ-Light**

We invite someone from your table to bring the candle from your table and light it from the Christ Candle, then carefully return to your table with the Light of the World.

**Gathering Hymn**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King!  
Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God on earth is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King!  
Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations, ye have seen the Infant's star:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King!  
Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King!

## Litany of Christmas Morning

Matt Rosencrans

One: Glory to God in the highest! The anticipated one is here! Emmanuel, God with us!

**Many: In carols and wonder we rejoice!**

One: The unfathomable miracle of your Incarnation is here as each and every one of us creates a cradle within our lives to welcome you to our world.

**Many: Holy child and savior of us all, we open our hearts to receive your wondrous love.**

One: Just as the angel chorus sang your praise that glorious morn, we join our voices with theirs to continue the song that will echo into eternity.

**All: Joyfully we adore you and proudly proclaim your love to all the earth!**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Matt Rosencrans

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

Erin Conaway

## Hymn

“The First Nowell”

The first Nowell 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.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

For all to see there was 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.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star  
The wise men came from country far,  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood humankind hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

**Gospel Reading***Luke 2:1-14*

Leslie Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.****Prayers of God's People**

Leslie Rosencrans

**Children's Sermon**

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.***Offertory**Tommy Edds, *piano*

Offering plates are available at the doors of Harper Hall as you leave worship.

**Doxology***(Sung to Veni Emmanuel, tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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

**Sermon**

"Breadcrumbs of Peace"

Erin Conaway

*(Isaiah 9:2-7)***Silent Reflection**

All the way down the centuries since that child was born, there have been countless different kinds of people who in countless different kinds of ways have been filled with his spirit, who have been grasped by him, caught up into his life, who have found themselves in deep and private ways healed and transformed by their relationships with him, so much so that they simply have no choice but to go on proclaiming what the writers of the Gospels first proclaimed: that he was indeed the long expected one, the Christ, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace - all these curious and forbidding terms that Christians keep on using in their attempt to express in language one thing and one thing only. That in this child, in the man he grew up to be, there is the power of God to bring light into our darkness, to make us whole, to give a new kind of life to anybody who turns toward him in faith, even to such as you and me.

— Frederick Buechner, *Secrets in the Dark*

## Hymn of Commitment

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ  
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers  
will greet you at the front of Harper Hall.*

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.

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,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

## Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the  
family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care,  
our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you,  
and receive from you, by God’s grace. Amen.

## Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

## Postlude

Tommy Edds, *piano*

## Today at Seventh

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