

“BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON,  
AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL”



BIBLE LUTHERAN CHURCH - RINCON, GEORGIA

DECEMBER 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION (*Stand*)

P: In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

P: We have come tonight, O God, because we need you in our lives.

**C: We are vulnerable to sin and the destructive powers of the world.**

P: Protect us, O God, and help us to see beyond the cynicism of this age.

**C: Open our hearts to see your eternal truth and all that is good and beautiful in your world.**

P: Teach us, O God, to value love for you are love.

**C: Give us love's passion for serving others and love's patience in our service.**

P: Call our souls, O God, to an obedience that is willingly given.

**C: Send your Holy Spirit that we may be holy and gladly do your will.**

P: We know that we cannot perfect ourselves or save ourselves from your righteous judgment.

**C: Forgive us, O God, as we confess our sins to you.** (*Moment of Silent Confession*)

P: In the name and authority of Christ Jesus, I announce to you the forgiveness of all your sins, for he rules as God's perfect King and redeeming Priest, forever and ever. **C: Amen**

ENTRANCE HYMN - #50 ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY (*Sung*) Mr. Trip Vorel—Trumpet

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations, You have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

CHRISTMAS GREETING (*Spoken*)

P: The grace of God be with you this night and bring you Christ the Lord.

**C: And bring you Christ the Lord.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE (*Sit*)

1st Lesson - Isaiah 7:10-14

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." <sup>13</sup> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Candle Lighting (*Remain seated, Sung - Tune: Hark the Glad Sound*)

**Kindle the flame of Christ this eve, may it burn bright and true.  
Prepare a room within your heart and let him reign over you.**

Prayer *(Spoken)*

P: Give us this night, O God, your Holy Spirit,

**C: that we may offer our lives to your only begotten Son and worship him as our one true King; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON - 1 John 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL *(Stand, Sung - Tune: Let Our Gladness Have No End)*

**Let our gladness have no end, Alleluia! For to earth did Christ descend, Alleluia!  
Son of God now in the flesh, Alleluia! Living Word our lives to bless. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL LESSON - Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL *(Sung - Tune: Let Our Gladness Have No End)*

**Let our gladness have no end, Alleluia! For to earth did Christ descend, Alleluia!  
Son of God now in the flesh, Alleluia! Living Word our lives to bless. Alleluia!**

SERMON *(Sit)*

CHRISTMAS HYMN - #67 AWAY IN A MANGER *(Stand, Sung)*

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

NICENE CREED *(Spoken)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

OFFERING HYMN *(Stand, Sung - Tune: What Child is This)*

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby; Joy, joy, for  
Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

OFFERING PRAYER *(Spoken)*

P: We offer, Father, our gifts and praise, **C: a joyful return for the gift of your Son. Amen**

COMMUNION DIALOG *(Sung - Tune: O Come, All Ye Faithful)*

P: The Lord God be with you.

**C: And with you, His servant.**

P: Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

**C: With hearts uplifted, thanks to Him we render, With joy we come before Him, In gratefulness implore Him,  
With thankful hearts adore Him evermore!**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, Almighty Creator, Merciful Lord, God of Promise and Fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and You sent forth Jesus Christ, Your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS *(Sung - Tune: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!  
Hail hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh,  
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing.  
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due, Be forever, Lord to you!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

TABLE PREPARATION - LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE Ms. Amy Terry

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT *(Sit)*

*(Guests who receive the Holy Sacrament in their home congregation are invited to partake in the Holy Communion. Children may also come forward for a blessing. Step up to table only after person in front of you has stepped away.)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE Ms. Amy Terry

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM *(Congregation)* Mr. Trip Vorel—Trumpet

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above they deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in they 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 all the 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; Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Stand)*

P: Send us forth into your Father's world, O Jesus, King and Priest of Glory.

**C: Let your blessed Name be in our hearts and on our lips, as we share God's redeeming love with everyone we meet. Amen**

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT *(As the flame is shared, please tip only the unlit candle.)*

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

P: Merry Christmas this Holy Night!

**C: With joy we will serve the Savior !**

*Guests: Come again soon and be blessed along your way. If you'd like to contact Pastor Dave, call 826-2711.*

*We extend a special thanks to Shelly Hobbs for serving as our musician this evening.*