

The Worship of God
December 24, 2017 · 6:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service

Prelude ***Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*** Manz

Welcome Chris Cottingham

Lighting of the Christ Candle Willoughby Family

Tonight we light the final candle on the Advent wreath, the Christ candle.
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we light the Advent candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, and we light the Christ candle.

++ Carol **No. 103** (verses 1 and 2) ***O Come, All Ye Faithful*** ADESTE FIDELES
As we sing, children are invited to come forward and gather around the manger.

The Christmas Story Jennifer Rygg and Keleigh Frazier
Children will have the opportunity to help place the nativity pieces as we hear the Christmas story.

Carol **No. 110** (verses 1 and 2) ***Away in a Manger*** MUELLER

Scripture Reading **Luke 2:1-4** Chris Cottingham

++Carol **No. 107** (verses 1 and 4) ***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** ST. LOUIS

Scripture Reading **Luke 2:5-7** Keleigh Frazier

Special Music ***Sweet Little Jesus Boy*** MacGimsey
Cat Ammons

Scripture Reading **Luke 2:8-14** Anna Xie

++Carol **No. 125** (verses 1 and 2) ***Angels We Have Heard on High*** GLORIA

Scripture Reading **Luke 2: 15-18** Jennifer Rygg

Special Music ***Gesu Bambino*** arr. Hayes
Chris Cottingham

Scripture Reading **Luke 2: 19-20** Jennifer Rygg

Reflection ***"The Gift of Christ"*** Jennifer Rygg

Communion
*You may come forward to receive communion at the altar table,
or raise your hand to indicate you would like to be served at your seat.*

++Special Music ***Silent Night*** Gruber and Mohr
John Ammons
*The light from the Christ candle will be passed around the sanctuary
to light the handheld candles.*

++ Congregational Carol ***Silent Night*** STILLE NACHT

**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, Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels, let us sing Alleluia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

Christmas Blessing Jennifer Rygg

++ Congregation is invited to stand.

CCLI License # 1542736

Welcome, Guests! Thank you for worshipping with us tonight! Please pick up a welcome bag (brown paper bag) from any of the entrances to the sanctuary. The bag includes information about our church. We would love to have you worship with us again. Our weekly worship service is at 10:45 am on Sundays.

Welcome, Children & Families! Christmas Eve is such an exciting time for children. This can also be a challenging time for parents to try to keep children calm. Parents, grandparents and other caregivers - THANK YOU for making the effort to worship with your children on Christmas Eve. This is a special night, and we hope this will be a special worship time together. We have several opportunities and resources to help children worship tonight.

Children's Bags: Please be sure your child receives a bag as they enter the sanctuary. The bag includes a children's worship bulletin, crayons, and stickers.

Children's Story: During the service, children will be invited to help tell the Christmas story using pieces of the Nativity Scene.

Children's Chapel: At any point during the service, but especially during communion (which can be a long time for children to sit still), you are welcome to take young children to **room 211** (exit the sanctuary via the doors furthest from the Christmas tree) where activities and snacks for young children are available. We do not have childcare workers tonight, so please stay with your child.

every member a minister

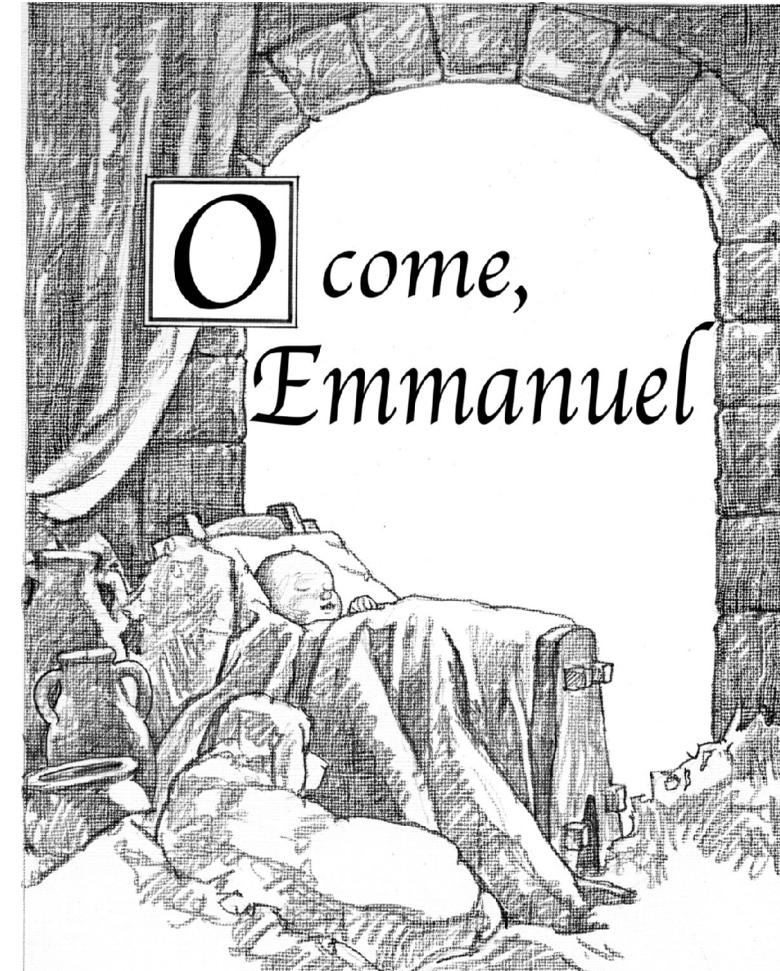
FULL-TIME MINISTERIAL AND LAY STAFF

Rev. Jennifer McClung Rygg, Pastor
Rev. Chris Cottingham, Minister of Music and Youth
Joseph Reed, Office Manager

PART-TIME MINISTERIAL AND LAY STAFF

Frank Breazeale, Organist
Marlena Dixon, Building Manager
Keleigh Frazier, Director of Children's Ministry
Diane Scott, Senior Fellowship Coordinator
Becky Westmoreland, Financial Assistant

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