

DECEMBER 24, 2023

## OUR LORD KNOWS AND CARES DEEPLY FOR US

The Prelude *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. M. Ijames  
Liz Taylor, viola

The Call to Worship Rev. Dean Williams

The Carol *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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.

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

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*

Words and Music by John Francis Wade, 1751

The Invocation Rev. Williams

The Confession of Faith Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

The Carol *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold; "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world: Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow. Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing; O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Text by Edmund H. Sears, 1850, Music by Richard S. Willis, 1850

The Scripture Reading **Psalm 139:1-16**

The Offering *All My Heart This Night Rejoices*  
arr. B. Būda

All my heart this night rejoices as I hear far and near sweetest angel voices. "Christ is born," their choirs are singing till the air ev'rywhere now with joy is ringing.

*Children ages 2-4 may come forward for the Children's Message. Afterward, those in the 2-3-year-old classes are dismissed to Church Time in the Nursery.*

The Children's Message Rev. Williams

The Song *Who Is This?*

Who is this so weak and helpless, child of lowly Hebrew maid, rudely in a stable shelter coldly in a manger laid? 'Tis the Lord of all creation who this wondrous path has trod; He is Lord from everlasting and to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows, walking sadly life's hard way, homeless, weary, sighing, weeping over sin and Satan's sway? 'Tis our God, our glorious Savior, who above the starry sky is for us a place preparing, where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him shedding drops of blood upon the ground! Who is this, despised, rejected, mocked, insulted, beaten, bound? 'Tis our God, who gifts and graces on his church is pouring down; who shall smite in holy vengeance all his foes beneath his throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying while the rude world scoffs and scorns, numbered with the malefactors, torn with nails, and crowned with thorns? 'Tis our God who lives forever mid the shining ones on high, in the glorious golden city, reigning everlastingly.

William Walsham How, Christopher Miner © 1997 Christopher Miner Music CCLI 600485

The Pastoral Prayer Rev. Caleb Cangelosi

The Scripture Reading **Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-16**

The Sermon Rev. Williams

*What's the Use of the Incarnation?  
An Exceptional Source of Empathy and Care*

The Carol *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."

Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord. Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the 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 Son 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."

Words by Charles Wesley, Music by Felix Mendelssohn

The Benediction Rev. Williams

The Postlude *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Lou's parents, Harold and Louise Scruggs, on what would have been their 73<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary and in memory of Betty Jo Palmer by Bill and Mary Lou Heaney.*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
4:30 P. M.

We will worship our glorious God this afternoon as we sing, pray, and receive the word preached by Rev. Caleb Cangelosi. Bring your family and friends as we worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There will be no nursery during the Christmas Eve worship service.

*Grace in the Appearing of Jesus*  
II Timothy 1:8-12

## WELCOME VISITORS!

Grace to you and peace from God our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray the Word of God and the people of God will be an encouragement to you today.



- Scan the QR code to fill out our online information form.
- Visit our website to learn more about us: [pearorchard.org](http://pearorchard.org).
- Make use of our Nursery for your children under 2. Our cry room, located in the Parlor south of the Sanctuary, is also available.
- Attend one of our Sunday School classes, 10:00-10:45 a.m. every Sunday morning. See the monitors for locations.
- We have a thriving disability ministry (Sonbeams) that is here to serve all individuals and families touched by disability.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

- **Sonbeams Night Out:** Join us for a Luau Night on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Gym. All volunteers meet at the Gym at 5:55 p.m.
- **Team Access Training:** Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:15-1:45 p.m. in Cafeteria for lunch and training. Please come join us as we continue to learn how to serve our Sonbeams friends.
- **Please join us for a welcome reception for Bobby and Kaylee Epps** as Bobby begins to serve as our new Youth Director. This will take place in the Cafeteria following the evening worship service on January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2024:** At the Session meeting last month, the elders approved John Neiswinger and Andy Rowan to stand for election by the congregation for the office of Elder, and Garrett McMullin and Steve Tackitt for the office of Deacon. The congregational meeting to elect officers will be held during the Sunday School hour on January 28, 2024.
- **Lost and Found:** Please check out the lost and found cabinets in the foyer for any items you may be missing. All items left after January 1 will be donated or purged.

## STAY CONNECTED

- Visit our website: [pearorchard.org](http://pearorchard.org)
- Make regular use of our church mobile app: **Ministry One**
  - Info on its many uses: [pearorchard.org/church-directory](http://pearorchard.org/church-directory)
- Every Friday you can read our weekly email update, delivered straight to your inbox.
  - Email Liz at [ltaylor@pearorchard.org](mailto:ltaylor@pearorchard.org) if you do not receive it.
- Ask for prayer: [pray@pearorchard.org](mailto:pray@pearorchard.org)

## UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS

- 12.25 Church offices closed for Christmas
- 12.26 Church offices closed for Christmas
- 12.29 Church offices closed for New Year's
- 1.1 Church offices closed for New Year's
- 1.5 Sonbeams Night Out – 6:30-9:00 p.m. – Gym
- 1.7 Team Access Training – 12:00-1:30 p.m. – Cafeteria
- 1.24 Wednesday Night Ministries Begin
- 1.28 Congregational Meeting – 10:00-10:45 a.m. – Sanctuary

Ministers: The People of God  
Rev. Caleb Cangelosi – Senior Pastor  
Rev. Carl Kalberkamp, Jr. – Associate Pastor of Congregational Care  
Rev. Dean Williams – Associate Pastor of Missions and Outreach

Earl Adams – Congregational Care Assistant	Jan Johnson – Nursery Coordinator
Megan Adcock – Children's Ministry Coordinator	John Kwasny – Executive Ministry Director
Ashley Benton – Youth Ministry Coordinator	Edwin Lewis – Facilities Maintenance Director
Daphne Clark – Sonbeams Director	Chris Payne – Maintenance Technician
Susie Cook – Organist	Marcus Smith – Youth Ministry Intern
Becca Davis – Music Ministry Intern	Seija Smith – Youth Ministry Intern
Tony Edwards – Maintenance Technician	Margaret Sprow – Music Director
Rick Goodwin – Business Administrator	Steve Tackitt – Maintenance Technician
Howard Graylin – Sound Team Leader	Liz Taylor – Media Communication Manager
Margaret Harvey – Church Hostess	Madison Taylor – Worship Team Leader
Tammie Haynes – Women's Ministry Director	Sam Thoman – Interim Youth Ministry Director
Cathy Haynie – CCS Head of School	Anna Vinson – Administrative Assistant
Patsy Holeman – Financial Administrator	

## MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

**Gary Johnson**  
**International Exchange Organization (IXO)**

Gary Johnson is IXO's missionary to Sweden. He leads the Finding Faithful Men Project based on II Timothy 2:1-2. Gary is regularly involved in developing partnerships with Swedish entities to open doors in order to place Christians in 'unreached' social groups in Sweden. He serves alongside Rättvik Missionskyrkan, the last remaining evangelical church in the city. Their mandate is to build bridges in the community on behalf of the church. Please pray for the Swedish contingent's 2024 visit to the U.S. Pray that they will be successful in their efforts to form club relationships and a sister church. Pray for a fruitful season of support-raising prior to their return to Sweden in April/May 2024.