

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

PRELUDE

Emmanuel

The sights and sounds
The lights and the crowds
It must be Christmas again

All this good cheer
Talk of a new year
What is this Christmas again?

It's more than just gifts
It's the gift of a king
The savior was born and changed everything

*Joy has a face now
And mercy a name
There's love in His lungs
And grace in His veins
Lift up your voices
On this Christmas morn
For unto us a child is born*

It's easy to let yourself just forget
Why this is Christmas at all

But the Lord has come
In the flesh as a Son
From the throne to a cattle stall

It's more than good cheer
It's all of our praise
Our redeemer has come to love, to free, to save

Emmanuel, God with us...

chorus x2
Emmanuel x2

WELCOME!

Larry Clagett

Pew pads are located along the inside aisle. Please take a moment to let us know that you were with us this morning and to tell us how we can help you today.

OUR HISTORIC FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 51

Q126. What does the fifth request mean?

A. "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" means: Because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, any of the sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors.

Ps. 51:1-7; 143:2; Rom. 8:1; 1 John 2:1-2 Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-35

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
For to Us*

PREPARATION AND PRAISE, CONTINUED

CONFESSION OF SIN

(by a member of Grace)

Heavenly Father, for too many days I have spent too many hours thinking too much about myself. I meditate on how I am doing and not your goodness. I consider my reputation in the eyes of the world and not your grace in my life. I am more concerned with what my brothers think of my gifts than exercising them for your Kingdom. You have given me a desire to serve, but it has become twisted to the point that I want to be famous for my humility. Certainly, all my good works are like filthy rags to you.

Father, retrain my focus from my face to yours. Help me to live without a mirror, without a scorecard, without knowing exactly what you are up to in my life. Change my thoughts from anxiety to peace, from self-absorption to selflessness. Work in me a true servant's heart. Teach me how to love as Jesus loved. Thank you that in your greatness you rule the universe and change my thoughts. Neither are difficult for you! I praise you for your power and goodness.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Philippians 4:4-8

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

CELEBRATION OF ADVENT

The Irvin Family

Lighting of the Shepherd Candle

Angels, We Have Heard on High

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Grace choir

"O Come To Set Us Free" Arranged By: Mary McDonald

Following the offering, children will be dismissed. Nursery is available for children two years and under. Children three years of age through fifth grade may go to Children's Church.

RENEWAL

GREETING ONE ANOTHER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Larry Clagett

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.
Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:16, 17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

SERMON

Pastor Randy Edwards

The Joy of the King

RESPONSE

SONGS OF RESPONSE:

Emmanuel

Sing

BENEDICTION

SERMON NOTES