

GATHERED WORSHIP SERVICE
for the
Glory of God
and the
Renewal of His People

December 24, 2016



To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Glorifying God...

Embracing Scripture...

Loving Corpus Christi...

PREPARATION for WORSHIP

“The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity – hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory – because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor and was born in a stable so that thirty years later he might hang on a cross. It is the most wonderful message that the world has ever heard, or will hear.”

J. I. Packer, Knowing God

*(*Indicates where congregation is invited to stand, as able)*

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Isaiah 52 and 53

Minister: *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news,*

Congregation: **who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion,
"Your God reigns."**

Minister: *Break forth together into singing,*

Congregation: **for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.**

Minister: *The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,*

Congregation: **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

Minister: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.*

Congregation: **Alleluia! Our King and Savior draws near!
Let earth receive her King!**

***SONG of ADORATION**

Come, O Redeemer Come

Words and Music: Fernando Ortega

Father enthroned on high, holy, holy
Ancient eternal Light, hear our prayer

Come, o Redeemer, come;
Grant us mercy.
Come, o Redeemer, come;
Grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark, of our striving
Faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down.

Come, o Redeemer, come;
Grant us mercy.
Come, o Redeemer, come;
Grant us peace.

Look now upon our need; Lord, be with us
Heal us and make us free from our sin.

Come, o Redeemer, come;
Grant us mercy.
Come, o Redeemer, come;
Grant us peace.

***PRAYER of INVOCATION**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2,6

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

SONG of HOPE

Joy To The World (Hymn #195)

Words and Music: Isaac Watts and George Frideric Handel

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

THE SECOND READING

Luke 1:30-35

And the angel said to Mary “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.

SONG of REFLECTION

What Child is This? (Hymn #213)

Words: William Chatterton Dix

What Child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading
Nails spear shall pierce Him through
The cross be born for me for you
Hail, hail the Word made flesh
The Babe the Son of Mary

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

THE THIRD READING

Isaiah 53:2-7

He had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned — every one — to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

CONFESSION of SIN

(please confess silently)

SONG of PETITION and RENEWAL

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Words and Music: John Mason Neale and Thomas Helmore

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

THE FOURTH READING

Philippians 2:4-11

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SONG of RESPONSE

O Holy Night

Words and Music: Adolphe Charles Adam, Chapeau de Rognemaure and John S. Dwight

O holy night the stars are brightly shining it is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
 Fall on your knees O hear the angel voices
 O night divine O night when Christ was born
 O night O Holy night
 O night divine

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming here came the wise men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger in all our trials born to be our Friend
 He knows our need to our weakness is no stranger
 Behold your King before Him lowly bend
 Behold your King
 Before Him lowly bend

Truly He taught us to love one another His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother and in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we let all within us praise His holy name
 Christ is the Lord O praise His name forever
 His power and glory Evermore proclaim
 His power and glory
 Evermore proclaim

***READING and PREACHING of GOD'S WORD**

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley, 1753 Music: Arr. By William H. Cummings, 1856

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 the virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'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 Sun 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

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Words of Christ's Institution

*Minister: Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.*

**Congregation: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Minister: The gifts of God are for the people of God.

All are invited to the table whether or not you are partaking of the elements. There are prayers on the back of the bulletin to assist you in praying, particularly if the Christian faith is new or unknown to you.

Feel free to bring children forward even if they are not partaking of the elements. Elders are available to pray with you.

If you are physically unable to come forward but wish to partake, servers will bring the elements to you.

Two elders are available to you for prayer at the back of the Sanctuary.

Serving of the Elements *(wine is in the outer ring of the trays; juice in the inner)*

(Lighting of the candles during the Fifth Reading)

THE FIFTH READING

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

* SONG of REJOICING

Silent Night (Hymn #210)

Words and Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, John Freeman Young, and Joseph Mohr

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 Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

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

Joy To The World

Words and Music: George Frideric Handel and Isaac Watts

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

***BENEDICTION**

Numbers 6:24-26

Congregation: (Loudly) Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE

*We praise the Lord for our accompanists this morning
– vocalists and instrumentalists and audio and video technicians.*

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COMMUNION REFLECTION PRAYERS

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and show me the reality of who You are. – Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Heavenly Father, I admit that I am more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through Your Son Jesus, I can be more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You that He lived the life I should have lived, and paid the debt and punishment I deserved. Receive me now for His sake. I turn from my sins and receive Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. – Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, help me to look to You as the fulfillment of all my needs, and to turn from every false satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to You, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. – Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, You have called us to follow You in a life of committed discipleship in Your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with Your people, and live in the fullness of Your Spirit. – Amen