

GATHERED WORSHIP SERVICE

for the
**Glory of God
and the**

Renewal of His People

December 13, 2015



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

Come, O Redeemer Come

Words and Music by Fernando Ortega

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.

WORSHIPING GOD'S GREATNESS

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

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Sursum Corda

Minister:

The Lord be with you.

Congregation:

And with your spirit.

Minister:

Lift up your hearts.

Congregation:

We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister:

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Congregation:

It is fitting and right to do so.

***SONG of ADORATION**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Words and Music: Charles Wesley and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

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 hosts 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

***PRAYER of INVOCATION**

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S GRACE

CONFESSION of FAITH

Westminster Larger Catechism Questions 5, 102, 122

Minister: *What do the Scriptures principally teach?*

Congregation: **The Scriptures principally teach
what man is to believe concerning God,
and what duty God requires of man.**

Minister: *What is the sum of the four commandments which contain our duty to God?*

Congregation: **The sum of the four commandments
containing our duty to God, is,
to love the Lord our God with all our heart,
and with all our soul, and with all our strength,
and with all our mind.**

Minister: *What is the sum of the six commandments which contain our duty to man?*

Congregation: **The sum of the six commandments
which contain our duty to man, is,
to love our neighbor as ourselves,
and to do to others what we would have them do to us.**

CONFESSION of SIN

(please, pray the following in unison)

**Eternal God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:
cleanse us from all our offenses,
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you,
confessing our faults, confiding in your grace,
and finding in you our refuge and strength;
through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

ASSURANCE of PARDON

Acts 10:43

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Blessed Assurance

Words and Music: Fanny Jane Crosby and Phoebe Palmer Knapp

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation purchase of God
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst at my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy whispers of love

This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest
Watching and waiting looking above
Filled with His goodness lost in His love

This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Please take a moment to fill out the information on the attendance pads located underneath the seat on the inner aisles, providing any information to enable us to better serve you. When you finish, please pass the pads down the row so everyone has the opportunity to do so.

FINANCIAL UPDATE from the DEACONS

PRAYER of COMMITMENT for our OFFERINGS

GIVING of REGULAR OFFERINGS and BARNABAS MERCY FUND

PRAYER for GOD'S PEOPLE and HIS WORLD

Please contact Tammy at the church office for prayer needs and updates.

*SONG of CELEBRATION

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

EMBRACING GOD'S WORD

*READING and PREACHING of GOD'S WORD

John 8:48-59

Before Abraham Was, I Am

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'" ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'" ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

*SONG of RESPONSE

What Child is This?

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

***BENEDICTION**

Hebrews 13:20-21

Congregation: (Loudly) Alleluia! Amen!

***PASS THE PEACE**

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

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

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel originated at least 800 years ago in the medieval Roman Catholic Church. Its author or authors are unknown.

It consists of a collection of Antiphons, which are psalms, hymns, or prayers sung responsively. Each antiphon greets the Lord Jesus with a title that is applied to Him in Scripture: Emmanuel, Lord of Might, Rod of Jesse, Dayspring, and Key of David.

During the 19th century, an Anglican scholar named John Mason Neale was a missionary in Africa. Among other things, he established an orphanage and a school for girls. He had an interest in discovering ancient hymns and translating them from Greek and Latin into English. He translated such hymns as *Good Christian Men Rejoice*, *All Glory Laud and Honor*, and *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, which is one of the oldest hymns we have record of.

One day Neale was reading through the *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum* and came across the "O Antiphons." He translated them into English and we now know the collection of verses as *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. It was paired with a tune with an interesting history. It has been traced to the 15th century, where it was used by French Franciscan nuns as a processional hymn at funerals.

A forgotten hymn, translated by a missionary in Africa, put to a tune whose origin was a mystery for hundreds of years, is now one of God's great gifts to His church. It celebrates the ultimate gift, the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!

MISSIONARIES and MISSIONS

Judy Arvin	Navigators NAS Corpus Christi
Brenda Carter	Mission to the World - Taiwan
Bojan & Julia Dragicevic	RUF International University of Texas in Austin
Ben & Beth Hailey	RUF Texas A&M College Station
Tim & Cheri Hoke	African Bible College - Uganda
Tim & Kristy Holliday	Mission to the World – Border Ministries
Greg & Sarah Hood	Reach Ministries
Kris & Paula Lundgaard	Mission to the World – Slovakia
John & Stefanie Bennett	RUF Texas A&M Corpus Christi
Michael & Rachel Novak	RUF Trinity University
Jason & Sarah Pickard	RUF International Texas A&M College Station
Khen & Rith Tombing	Presbytery Missions International – India
Dan & Becky Young	Mission to the World – Border Ministries

Corpus Christi Pregnancy Resource Center
Covenant College
Covenant Theological Seminary
Presbytery Church in America Administrative Committee
South Texas Presbytery Operating Budget and Isaias Uc
Southwest Church Planting Network

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

Sunday, December 13, - Saturday, December 19, 2015

Elder on Call

Ed Arvin	Dec 13 – 19	Gordon Landreth	Dec 20 – 26
Johnny Cotten	Dec 27 – January 2	Rob Sigler	Jan 3 – 9

Opportunities to Know, Connect, and Serve

Barnabas Mercy Fund offering. The Barnabas Mercy Fund Offering is used to help with needs among our congregation’s members and acquaintances. Envelopes designated for our Barnabas gifts have been placed inside the green pew books.

Fellowship Luncheon Everyone is invited to stay after Worship Service today for a covered dish meal.

Friday Prayer Meeting. Everyone is invited to gather Fridays at the church at 2:00 pm for a dedicated time of prayer.

Christian Education. All classes will take a break for Christmas. Today is our last day for CE we will restart January 10th.

December 22nd – Christmas Caroling at Harbor Place. Located at 5518 Lipos Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78413. We will gather at 6:30 in the activity center, and begin singing at 7:00pm. For more information please contact Tim Mulder.

Care Group

Mirador Memory Care Ministry Opportunity – Evening Vespers. Bible study and worship 4-5pm Sundays. For more information about this Care Group contact Richard Mittanck or Emily Weaver.

Serving Families with Children Ministry

Nursery Volunteers Needed – Weekly volunteers please check in with our nursery workers, Roxanne and Chelsea, to see if you are needed. We will likely be opening up the infant room more frequently. If you’re not currently a volunteer would you consider serving a couple of times a year? Please contact Meredith Hood

Women’s Ministry

Women’s Breakfast Fellowship. We gather weekly Tuesdays 7:00 am at Town and Country Café, 4228 South Alameda Street. All ladies are invited to join us for a time of sharing, card writing and prayer. Contacts are Jean Newberry and Linda Landreth.

Women’s Study Thursday mornings 9:30 – 11:30 am at the church. Childcare is provided. They are studying “*Treasures of Encouragement*” by Sharon Betters which will enhance the women’s ministry to hurting people.

Women’s Christmas Gathering. Ladies are invited today from 5-7pm at the Cotten's home. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and a friend. We will also be collecting items for the South Texas Children’s Home. Printed invitations with the suggested gift items have placed on the Welcome Table located in the narthex.

The Women's Noon Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 15th at 12:00 noon at the home of Jeanne McCrocklin. Each lady is to bring a salad to share with all. If you have an article or poem you would like to share with all, please bring it. We hope everyone can make it.

Men’s Ministry

Men’s Study. Men’s group will be starting a new study on Habakkuk. We will be using a study guide written by Mike McCrocklin They meet weekly Tuesdays 6:30 am at Town and Country Café, 4228 South Alameda. Contacts are Bill Newberry and Gordon Landreth.

Reformed University Fellowship – Texas A&M Corpus Christi

Leadership: John and Stefanie Bennett (281) 546-5220

Financial Update

Giving Month-to-Date: \$ 8025.00	Giving Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$ 184,660.00
Budget Month-to-Date \$ 5938.00	Budget Fiscal Year-to-Date \$ 207,527.00

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