

The First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, December 28th 2025 8:00am & 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

Preparation For Worship: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! Praise him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! *Psalm 148:1-2*

Opening Song

Here I Am To Worship

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,

Here I am to say that You're my God.

And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,

Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,

Glorious in heaven above. Humbly You came to the earth You created,

All for love's sake became poor.

So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,

Here I am to say that You're my God.

And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,

Altogether wonderful to me.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross

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Here I am to say that You're my God.

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Ministry Spotlight

Share

Invocation

Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: *(John 1:1-4)*

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 all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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. For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made him known.

People: **God is good!**

Pastor: All the time!

People: **All the time.**

Pastor: God is good!

(Romans 3:19-26)

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

People: **But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation or sacrifice & intercession by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in God's divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show God's righteousness at the present time, so that God might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Thank you Jesus.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Forgive me for my sins, I pray. (Reflection for confession)

Pastor: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and by His authority, I announce God's grace to all of you, and the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and give His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

People: Amen

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Daily Text

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! For there the Lord ordained His blessing, life forevermore. *Psalm 133:1, 3*

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors! *Luke 2:14*

Let us pray:

People: Glory to You, the Prince of Peace. I become unsettled by all the turbulence in the world. Fill my heart with Your peace. Help me, and believers everywhere, to live in unity and peace. How good and pleasant it is to be members of Your forever family. Together we can promote peace as we share the gospel message. Amen.

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Psalm

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! ³ Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created. ⁶ And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and maidens together, old men and children! ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his

majesty is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the Lord!

Second Lesson

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Reader: Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.

People: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.

Psalm 119:105, John 6:68

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He

rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Song

All The World Awaits

All the world awaits
The promise of His birth
Open up the gates
Heaven come to earth

A host of angels sing
Our Savior here to dwell
The King of every king
Our Emmanuel

Hosanna
Hosanna
Hosanna
Hosanna

In the highest
Hosanna to our God

Behold the Son of Man
Here in a manger lay
Worthy is the Lamb

continued on next page

For He has come to save

**To take away our sin
He freely gave His life
Born that we may live
And in Him never die**

**Hosanna (King Jesus)
Hosanna (all praise)
Hosanna (Come save us)
Hosanna (He reigns)
In the highest
Hosanna to our God**

**Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace
Hail the Son of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Glory to the newborn King**

**Hosanna (King Jesus)
Hosanna (all praise)
Hosanna (Come save us)
Hosanna (He reigns)
In the highest
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**Hosanna (King Jesus)
Hosanna (all praise)
Hosanna (Come save us)
Hosanna (He reigns)
In the highest
Hosanna to our God**

**Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna to our God**

Sermon/Watchword *Talk --- New, Knew, Next*

Pr Knoll

I Will Recount The Gracious Deeds Of The Lord, The Praiseworthy Acts Of The Lord,
Because Of All That The Lord Has Done For Us

Prayers of the Church *Pray*

*The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church,
the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.*

Pastor: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: **Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray**

that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with these words...

Pastor: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: Amen.

Preface, Proper Preface and Sanctus

Pastor: The Lord be with You.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh You have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of Your glory; that, beholding the God made visible; we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

People^(sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Words Of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take and eat, this is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of Me."

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

People: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Distribution Of Holy Communion

All who sincerely believe in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Communion – that the cup of blessing is the Communion of the blood of Christ and the bread is the Communion of the body of Christ, and sincerely believing that in receiving Him we have the forgiveness of our sins, salvation, and strength for the Christian life, come – partake of the Lord's Supper.

Communion Song

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

**Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.
You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.**

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way,
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.
You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.**

**Almighty, infinite Father,
Faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne,
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.
You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.**

**You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace**

continued on next page

**Our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.**

Nunc Dimittis

Pastor: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;

People: **For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before
the face of all people;**

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father, and to the + Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

Benediction *Bless*

Pastor: Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.
Shalom. Shalom.

People: **Amen.**

Blessing: Child of God, the Holy Spirit abides among us, do not fear.

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: **our service begins!**

Closing Song

Go Tell It On The Mountain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.
Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.**

**Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;**

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**Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
And brought us God's salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.**

**Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.
That Jesus Christ is born.**

SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE

Welcome To Worship At Zion. We are pleased to have you join us. *If you are a visitor* please check the shelf outside the office for our newsletter and brochure.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

The 2026 Altar Flower Chart is up in the hallway. You may sign up for one or two vases. The cost per vase is \$22.50 per vase or \$45.00 for both vases. Please indicate whether it is in honor or memory of an individual or special event.

A new local ministry is the recipient of our Mission of the Month gifts for December. Damascus Road Project, a nearly 100% specially trained volunteer run 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to fighting the evil of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. See the article in the newsletter for more information.

The January Newsletter is available on the tables across from the Chapel and Lounge, on the shelf outside the church office and also on the desk in the library. *Please remember: We no longer have a way to find out if you have moved. Call the church office with new addresses and/or phone numbers.*

Worship at Zion

Saturday	5:00pm	Chapel Service (<i>the 2nd and last Saturday of each month</i>)
Sunday	8:00am	Worship
	9:30am	G.I.F.T. Worship
	11:30am	Swahili-English Worship

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