

## FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LESSONS

SunCoast MCC

December 24, 2022 – 4PM

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**— “Bring A Torch Jeanette, Isabella”

### **PROCESSIONAL** –

**Join us in singing:** “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”—Hymn #107

*Awake! awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, to open  
wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.*

*To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a singing,  
Whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness, the thunder  
of **the** anthems role to shatter all hate and injustice.*

*In deepest night Christ’s coming shall be, when all the world is  
despairing, as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and  
caring. One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in  
wonder, the weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are broken  
asunder.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and  
cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving  
and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless  
story, may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.*

### **WORDS OF WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

**Join us in singing:** "O Come All **You** Faithful" #135

*O come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come now, O come now to Bethlehem. Come and behold the ruler of all angels:  
O come in adoration, O come in adoration, O come in adoration: God of all.*

*Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all you messengers of heavenly love: "Glory to God, all glory in the highest":  
O come in adoration, O come in adoration, O come in adoration: God of all.*

*Amen, Lord we greet you, born this happy morning; Jesus to you shall all glory be given; Word of our God now in flesh appearing:  
O come in adoration, O come in adoration, O come in adoration: God of all.*

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES –**

**Rev. Gene:** We gather to celebrate the birth of the one who is the light of the world.

**ALL:** *We are here to worship God and God's Son Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem of Judea.*

**Rev. Gene:** We light the candle of hope to remind us of the promises made by all the prophets, that God would raise up a Savior for all people and through Him bless all the nations.

(light the first candle)

**Rev. Gene:** We light the candle of peace to remind us that the Prince of Peace comes to enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

(light the second candle)

**Rev. Gene:** We light the candle of joy to remind us that the Lord has made known God's salvation and that grace is poured out upon us.

(light the third candle)

**Rev. Gene:** We light the candle of love to remind us that God so loved the world that God sent the only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Christ might have eternal life.

(light the fourth candle)

**Rev. Gene:** We light the Christ candle to celebrate and rejoice that the light of the world is born this night....

(light the Christ candle)

**Rev. Gene:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them a light has shined. You, O God, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its

joy. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulder. He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Parent, the Prince of Peace.

**ALL:** *Glory be to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all people of good will.*

**Join us in singing:** “Come O Long-Expected Jesus”

*Come, O Long Expected Jesus, Born To Set Your People Free.*

*From Our Fears And Sins Release Us; Christ, In Whom Our Rest Shall Be.*

*You, Our Strength And Consolation, Come Salvation To Impart; Dear*

*Desire Of Many A Nation, Joy Of Many A Longing Heart.*

*Born Your People To Deliver, Born A Child To Praise And Sing.*

*Born To Reign In Us Forever, Born Your Gracious Realm To Bring.*

*By Your Own Eternal Spirit Rule In All Our Hearts Alone;*

*By Your All Sufficient Merit Raise Us To Your Glorious Throne.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-3a, 6-9**

A shoot will come from the stump of Jesse, and a branch will grow out of his roots. The spirit of God will rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and reverence for God.

His delight will be in his reverence for God. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child will lead them. The cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child will play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child will put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.

**Join us in singing: "Emmanuel"**

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, **Your** Name is called, Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us, **Your** Name is called, Emmanuel.*

**SECOND READING: Luke 1:26-33**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his realm there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Join us in singing:** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #133

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie! Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; Yet in your dark streets **shine** the everlasting **Light**; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our **God** Emmanuel!*

**THIRD READING: Luke 2:1, 3-7**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "O Holy Night" - Arrangement for Voice (David) and French Horn (Troy)

**Join us in singing:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" #125

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.*

*Glo-ria in excelsis Deo, Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song.*

*Glo-ria in excelsis Deo, Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; Come adore on bended knee, **God** our world now entering.*

*Glo-ria in excelsis Deo, Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.*

*See the Babe in manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.*

*Glo-ria in excelsis Deo, Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.*

**FOURTH READING: Luke 2:8-16**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.



This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**Special Music** "Away in a Manger" **by Mark Schweizer**

Featuring SunCoast MCC Choir and Troy Messner, French Horn

**FIFTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when

you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Join us in singing:** "The First Noel" #139

*The first Noel the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

*They looked above and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

*And by the light of that same star Three sages came from country far; To seek for a King was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born in a manager, Emmanuel.*

*Then entered in those magi three, and bending low upon their knee,  
They offered there in great reverence, their gold and myrrh and  
frankincense.*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

**SIXTH READING: John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Christ was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of God's only son, full of grace and truth.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "Mary Did You Know?" by Sandi Patty –

**READING: "A Gathering of Angels"** – Rick

**Join us in singing:** "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

The virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a baby boy, and they say that his name was Jesus.

Refrain: He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. Oh, yes!  
Believer! Oh, yes! Believer! He come from the glory, he come from the  
glorious kingdom.

The angels sang when the baby born, the angels sang when the baby born, the angels sang when the baby born, and they say that his name was Jesus.

Refrain: He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. Oh, yes! Believer! Oh, yes! Believer! He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

The wise men saw where the baby born, the wise men saw where the baby born, the wise men went where the baby born, and they say that his name was Jesus.

Refrain: He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. Oh, yes! Believer! Oh, yes! Believer! He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY** – French Horn Solo - “Infant Holy” arr. By Thomas R Borden

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE** – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #116

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lowly exile here, until the Child of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**COMMUNION**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Holy One be with you  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them up to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Join us in singing:**

*(Sing twice)*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

And so...

This evening, with faith and hope as your people, we proclaim together  
that,

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

**Join us in singing:**

*(Sing twice)*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

## **LIGHTING CANDLES & SILENT NIGHT: "Silent Night" #134 (NCH)**

(Ushers will assist in lighting the candles on the end of row and people will light from each other.)

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, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night, Child of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from your holy face  
bring the dawn of redeeming grace;  
Jesus Christ at your birth,  
Jesus Christ at your birth.

## **Recessional-**

**Join us in singing: "Joy to the World" #132**

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth its praises bring; Let every heart prepare Christ 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 all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of God's righteousness and wonders of God's love, and wonders of God's love, and wonders, wonders of God's love.*