



## **Sunday Morning Service December 7, 2025**

### ***Sing We the Song of Emmanuel***

Keith Getty | Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Stuart Townend  
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Sing we the song of Emmanuel;  
This, the Christ who was long foretold.  
Lo, in the shadows of Bethlehem,  
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.  
God Most High in a manger laid.  
Lift your voices and now proclaim,  
“Great and glorious, Love has come to us.”  
Join now with the hosts of heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel,  
King who came with no crown or throne.  
Helpless He lay, the Invincible,  
Maker of Mary, now Mary’s Son.  
Oh, what wisdom to save us all!  
Shepherds, sages before Him fall.  
Grace and majesty, what humility!  
Come, on bended knee adore Him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel:  
Joy and peace for the weary heart.  
Lift up your heads, for your King has come!  
Sing, for the Light overwhelms the dark!  
Glory shining for all to see.  
Hope alive, let the gospel ring.  
God has made a way; He will have the praise.  
Tell the world His name is Jesus.

Gloria! Gloria!  
Gloria! Gloria!

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Confession of Faith**

**Westminster Larger Catechism # 36 & 37**

Q. 36. Who is the mediator of the covenant of grace?

**A. The only mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fullness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever.**

Q. 37. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

**A. Christ the Son of God became man, by taking to Himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance, and born of her, yet without sin.**

### **Memory Verse**

**Galatians 4:4-5**

**But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.**

## Call to Worship & Prayer

Psalm 67:1-5, 7

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

**May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.**

### *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

John F. Wade, 1751

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O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
Lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

## Corporate and Silent Confession

### Compassionate and Covenant-Keeping God,

**You have called us to love You with our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we have been selfish and proud instead.**

**We confess how our affections continually turn away from You:**

**from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Thank You for the gift of Your Son who came to be like us that He might rescue us. Order our lives by Your holy Word, reorder our affections by Your Holy Spirit, and make Your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and keep us, while we wait for Him to come in glory. Amen.**

*-adapted from IPC Pastor Paul Levy*

## Assurance of Pardoning Grace

I Corinthians 15:1-4

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

### *As With Gladness Men of Old*

William C. Dix, 1858

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before Hi Whom heav'n and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to Thee our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

**Pastoral Prayer & The 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, forever. Amen.** *\*sins/trespases*

**Sermon “...good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” (Luke 2:8-14) Rev. Adam Shields**

***Good Christian Men Rejoice***  
Trans. By John M. Neale, 1853

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Earth and heav'n before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened Heaven's door, and man is blessed forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**\* Benediction** **Galatians 1:3-5**  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

***The Doxology***  
Thomas Ken, 1709

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN GOD’S GRACE**

**Sunday**  
9:00 a.m.....Sunday School  
10:15 a.m.....Worship Service  
6:00-7:30 p.m.....Youth Group

**Women’s Christmas Gathering, December 7, at 4:00 pm**, at the home of Emily Jones, 525 Desoto Drive, Fort Payne, AL 35967. Bring your favorite appetizer! We can’t wait to fellowship with everyone and get in the Christmas spirit.

Based on our last officer nomination cycle in August, there will be a **congregational vote on Sunday, December 14**, immediately following the worship service. The slate of candidates, approved by the session, will include the following candidate for deacon: Matt Sharp.

**Youth Christmas Party!** Join us for our annual Christmas Party at Emily Jones' house on **December 19th** from 6-8 PM! We will have supper followed by our annual sock swap--fill a pair of (new) socks with small gifts to be exchanged! (\$20 max!)

**December 21 - Youth Girls Christmas Event**  
We will make Christmas crafts at Alice Circle followed by snacks, cocoa, and watching Little Women at Joy’s house. Bring \$10-15 if you would like to make a craft at Alice Circle.  
Drop off: 2pm at Alice Circle, Downtown Fort Payne  
Pick up: 6pm at Joy Faircloth’s home, 3405 Citadel Rock Rd.  
RSVP to Joy (423-760-5426) if you would like to attend! I would like to make sure we have enough seats to transport everyone from Alice Circle to my home.

**ROOTs 2025 is coming up soon!** All students 6th-12th grades are invited to our annual Presbytery-wide youth retreat held January 23-25! See Pastor Matt if you need the signup link and for more details.

Wednesdays  
December 10, 5:30 p.m..... Christmas Caroling at Spring Grove Apartments  
  
December 24, 5:30 p.m.....Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Save The Date! Men of Heart Retreat at Camp Skyline – Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 8-5

Deacon of the Month: Phillip Smith (December); Eddie Davis (January)  
Please see the deacon of the month for thermostat changes outside of office hours.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

GRACE CHURCH DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR		
<i>DAY</i>	<i>CHURCH FAMILY</i>	<i>MISSIONARY / MINISTRY</i>
SUNDAY	Jessica & Cody Works Gideon & Juniper	Ruth and Omar Alvarado <i>Crosspoint International, Nicaragua and Honduras</i>
MONDAY	Alicia & David Atchley	Betty & Rick Aschmann <i>MTW, Ecuador</i>
TUESDAY	Kathy Beagles	Brenda Carter <i>MTW, Taiwan</i>
WEDNESDAY	Anne & Rick Bearden	Sharlene & Brandon Coker <i>MAF, Canada</i>
THURSDAY	Hazel Bickerstaff	Kelci & Tanner Crum <i>RUF at Auburn</i>
FRIDAY	Cal & Christy Breed Anna & Jacob	Abigail & Josh Duemler <i>Church plant, Michigan</i>
SATURDAY	Chasidy & Chris Brown Kylee & Carson	Amina & Phil Fiol <i>MTW, India</i>

Prayer Concerns  
John Mathieu – healing & recovery  
Martha Baba (AmyLaura Duraski’s grandmother) – mental strength and healing  
Anne Duraski (Matt’s mother) – upcoming back surgery  
Brandy Smith – balance/gait therapy through January

Various Cancer Treatments  
Leanne Burkett Weatherford, Roy Brittain, Rhonda Stewart, Rachel Davis, John Harris

2025 Projected Missions Expenditures: \$157,100.00                      2025 Faith Promise Giving: \$90,298.50  
  
2025 Faith Promise Commitment: \$94,700.00  
  
2025 General Fund Giving: \$330,863.52