

The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

*Declaring, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,
and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

December 27th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

For assistance as we “gather” remotely and in-person to worship together.

December 27th, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Galatians 4: 4 – 5

When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. *So let us rejoice in Christ the Lord who has come for us!*

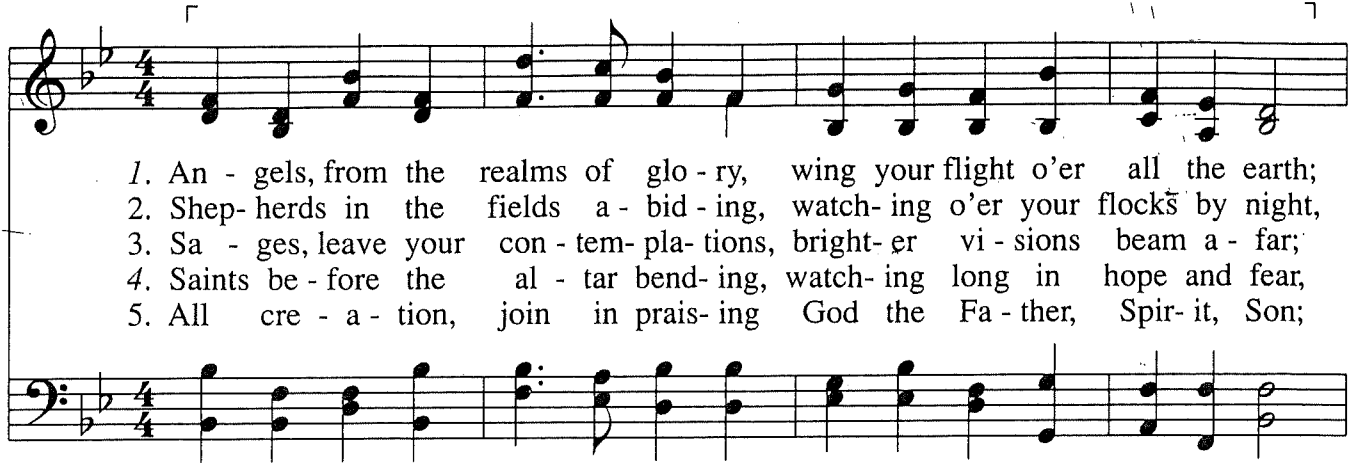
❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 218

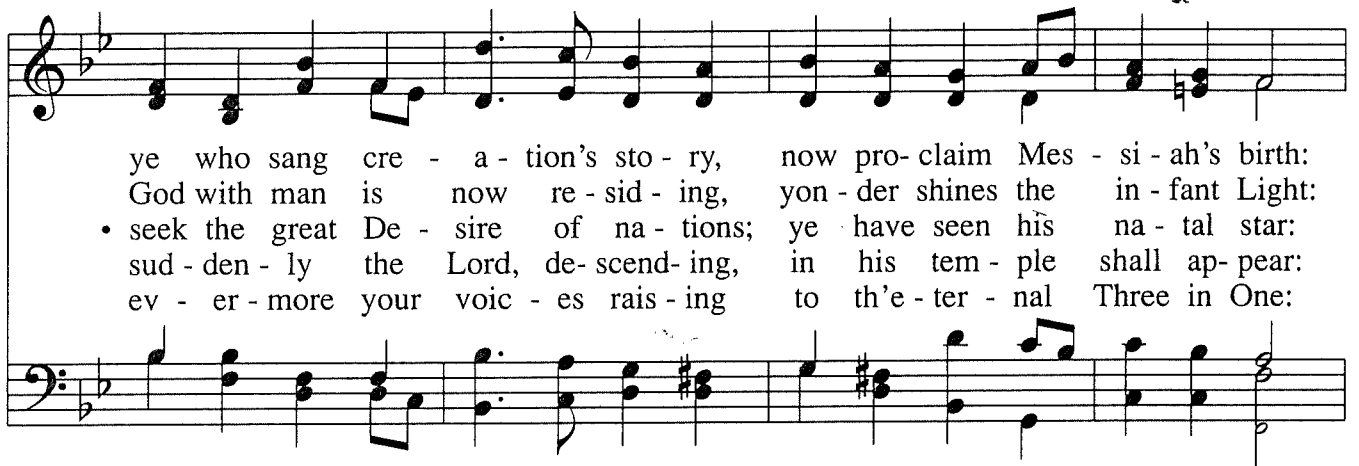
Angels, From the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.
Matt. 2:11

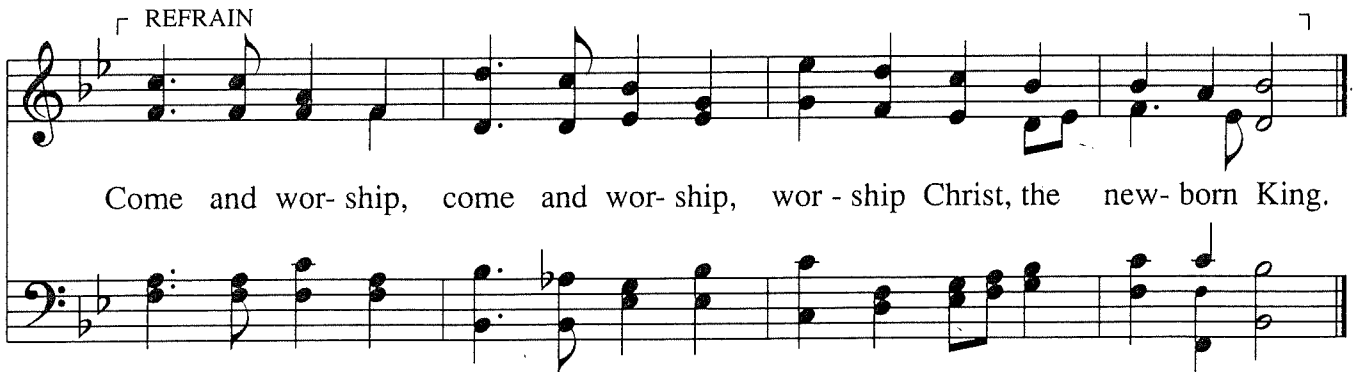


1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flock's by night,
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,
5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
• seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:

REFRAIN



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9: 6 – 7

- 6 For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of armies will accomplish this.

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Matthew 16:15

Jesus said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” After the disciples rightly confessed, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*” Peter had to be reprimanded because he was “not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” If we are honest with ourselves we must admit that we often do not have our minds set on the things of God. Confession is simply being honest with God about our sin. Agreeing with Him about how we seek our own agenda instead of His. Let us confess our sin now silently before Him.

Silent Reflection/Confession

Please take a few moments to pray privately.

❖ Song of Preparation

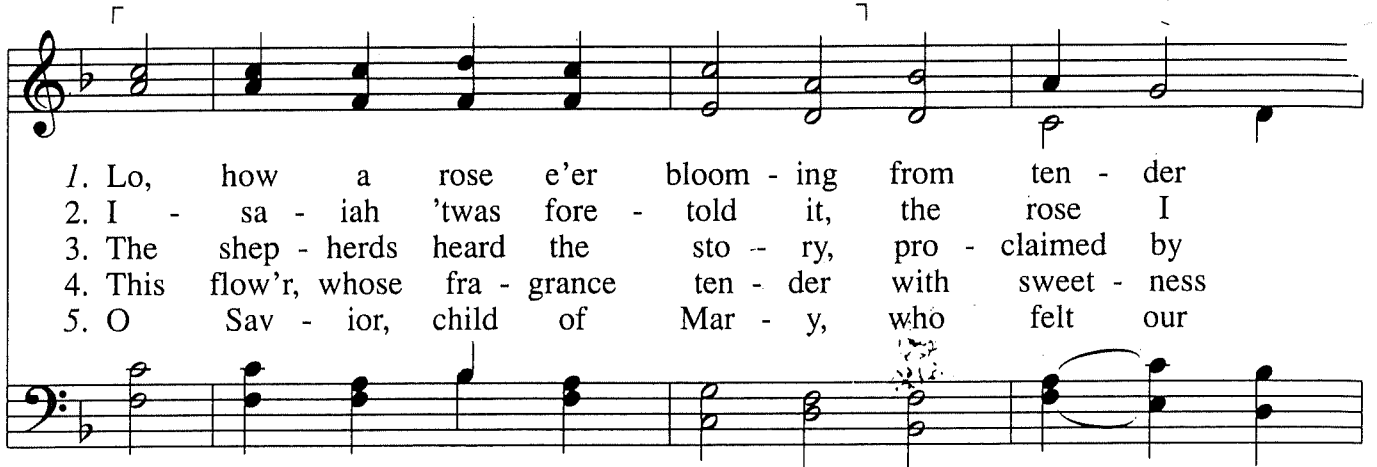
Number 221

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

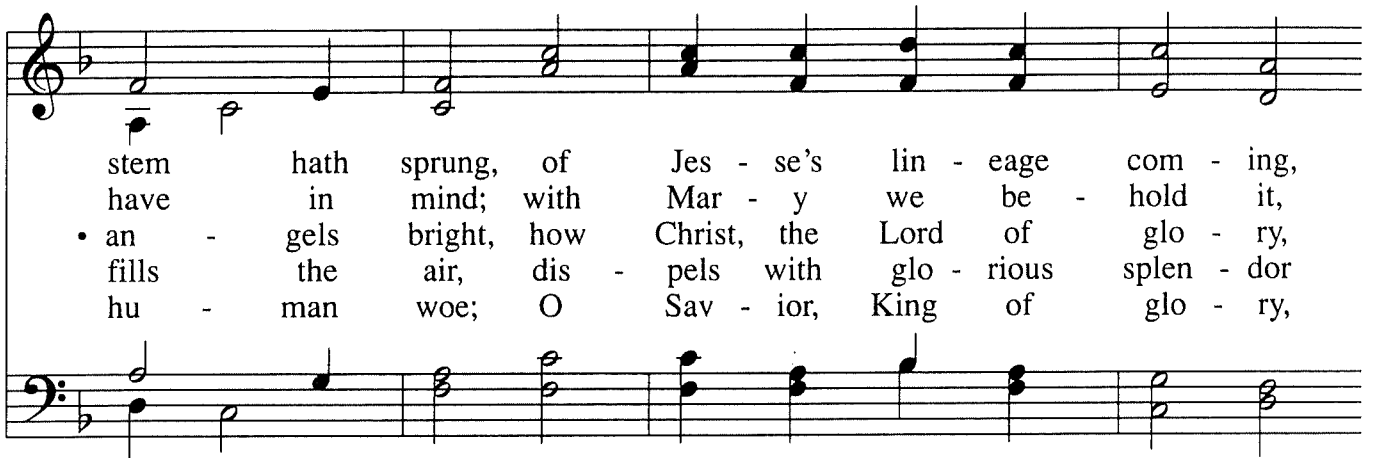
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

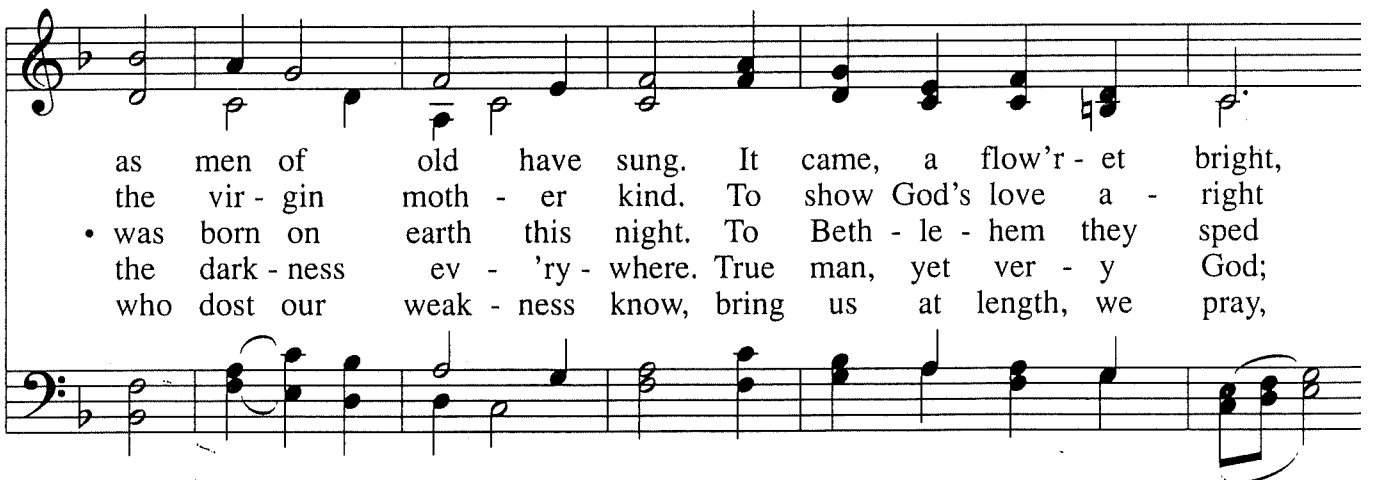
Is. 11:1



1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I
 3. The shep - herds heard the sto - ry, pro - claimed by
 4. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness
 5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our



stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,
 have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it,
 • an - gels bright, how Christ, the Lord of glo - ry,
 fills the air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor
 hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,



as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
 the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right
 • was born on earth this night. To Beth - le - hem they sped
 the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God;
 who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,

HIS BIRTH

a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the - night.
 she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 • and in the man - ger found him, as an - gel her - alds said.
 from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

German hymn, ca. 1500
 St. 1-2 tr. by Theodore Baker, 1894
 St. 3-4 tr. by Harriett R. Spaeth, 1875
 St. 5 tr. by John C. Mattes, 1914

ES IST EIN ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
 German melody, 15th cent.
 Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1609; alt.

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Christmas Carol

Number 195

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 98:4

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and gra - ce, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

“Christmas According to Simeon”

Luke 2: 25 – 32

²⁵ And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came by the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, ²⁸ then he took Him in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

²⁹ “Now, Lord, You are letting Your bond-servant depart in peace,
According to Your word;

³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation,

³¹ Which You have prepared in the presence of all the peoples:

³² A light for revelation for the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel.”

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Number 213

What Child Is This

Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? Matt. 2:2

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap - is sleep - ing
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Benediction

John 14: 27

Pastor: Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer.

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Christmas Eve Offering

This year's recipient of the Christmas Eve Offering will be Bethany Birches Camp in Plymouth, VT. They have many needs but in particular a new camp vehicle. Their old vehicle died, and they currently have a donated vehicle but that too is old. Through their virtual auction some funds were pledged to purchase a new camp vehicle but not enough. The Christmas Eve Offering will go towards helping to purchase the new camp vehicle. For more information about Bethany Birches, please go to <https://www.bethanybirches.org/>.

If you were unable to attend the Christmas Eve Service, but would like to give to the Christmas Eve Offering, you still can put your contribution in the offering box; mail it to FCCW at 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091; or give online until January 10. Make checks payable to FCCW with a note in the memo line stating Christmas Eve Offering. Please put cash in an envelope with Christmas Eve Offering written on the outside of the envelope.

Any questions, please contact the Mission Board: Keri Bristow, Bonnie Atwood, Dave Christensen, Anne Koop, Stacy Selbo, or Nancy Stockwell.

Pastor Doug is away

Pastor Doug is away from December 28 through January 10 for some much needed rest. If you have an emergency, please contact one of the Elders.

Elder Keith Tallon:	802-484-1274	tallon49@gmail.com
Elder John Haas:	802-345-7855	jhaas@ara.com
Elder Gil Emery:	802-457-4950	Hgemery@aol.com
Elder Tom Johnston:	802-457-3012	tajdmd1@gmail.com
Elder Peter Vanderhoof:	802-483-9430	pdvanderhoof@gmail.com

Please prayer for Pastor Doug and his family as they have time together to rest and enjoy the holiday season.

No Young Adult Fellowship Group December 27,
January 3, or January 10.

Copies of Pastor Doug's Christmas Booklet
are available in the Narthex.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

This week we will be using the material from our *Christmas Season Devotional*. Each day there is a Scripture to read with some questions for discussion or contemplation. The questions, Scripture, prayer, and singing provide a simple yet rich framework for family worship. Turn your mind and heart toward God together as a family and worship Him who has redeemed us. May God bless you as you worship Him in spirit and truth.

Sunday

READ: The Scripture passage from this morning's sermon text—**Luke 2: 21 – 38**.

DISCUSS: Why is Simeon singing? Can you relate? How? Why?

SING: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

PRAY: "Lord, thank You for allowing Simeon to know the Consolation of Israel. Teach us to be satisfied in You."

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Trinity Hymnal 221)

Verse 1

Lo how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung
It came a flow'ret bright
Amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night

Verse 2

Isaiah 'twas foretold it
The Rose I have in mind
With Mary we behold it
The Virgin Mother kind
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half-spent was the night

Verse 3

The shepherds heard the story
Proclaimed by angels bright
How Christ, the Lord of glory
Was born on earth this night
To Bethlehem they sped
And in the manger found him
As angel heralds said

Verse 4

This flow'r whose fragrance
tender
With sweetness fills the air
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere
True man yet very God
From sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load

Verse 5

O Savior child of Mary
Who felt our human woe
O Savior King of glory
Who dost our weakness know
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day

Monday

READ: Matthew 2: 13 – 23.

DISCUSS: Why did Jesus and His family have to flee to Egypt? How does this mirror the journey of Israel? How does God use tragic things in life?

SING: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

PRAY: "Jesus, thank You for being a refugee so that we could be brought home. Thank You for caring for the poor. Thank You for humbling Yourself as a

servant so that we could know love and purpose. Help us to care as You do for those in darkness. Enable us to love them as You have loved us.”

Tuesday

READ: Matthew 3: 1 – 17.

DISCUSS: What does it mean for the Father to be pleased with Jesus? How does that affect His response to us who are in Christ? Rejoice!

SING: *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

PRAY: “Lord Christ, You have revealed the glory of God to us. We see Your holiness in Your perfect obedience for us. Please cause Your radiance to shine within us, to change us, enliven us, and to shine to others.

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing (Trinity Hymnal 227)

Verse 1

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
News of great joy news of great mirth
News of our merciful Kings birth

Verse 3

When sin departs before Your grace
Then life and health come in its place
When sin departs before Your grace
Then life and health come in its place
Angels and men with joy may sing
All for to see the new born king

Verse 2

Then why should men on earth be sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad
Then why should men on earth be sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad
When from our sin He set us free
All for to gain our liberty

Verse 4

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night
All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night
Glory to God and peace to men
Now and for evermore Amen

Wednesday

READ: Matthew 4: 1 – 25.

DISCUSS: Why did Jesus come to earth? What was the point of His temptation?

SING: *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

PRAY: “Lord, thank You for being faithful where we have failed.”

Thursday

READ: Matthew 5:1 – 20.

DISCUSS: How did Jesus explain the law? How are we to keep it? Why?

SING: *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

PRAY: “Jesus, thank You for doing what we could not. Help us now to do what You have freed us to do in love. Enable us to walk in Your Spirit.”

Friday

READ: Matthew 5:21 – 48.

DISCUSS: How are you responding today to Christ's redemption?

SING: *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

PRAY: "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, You have promised from of old that You would send a Redeemer for Your people. We praise and thank You for Your faithfulness in that redemption. Transform our hearts, make us joyful people because of Your steadfast love. Make our feet willingly run to You. Give our tongues boldness in proclaiming Your grace. Lead us more and more so that we can see Your face. Amen.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (Trinity Hymnal 211)

Verse 1

God rest you merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray

Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Verse 2

From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name

Refrain

Verse 3

Fear not then said the angel
Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might

Refrain

Verse 4

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks a feeding
In tempest storm and wind
And went to Bethlehem
straightway
The Son of God to find

Refrain

Saturday

READ: Matthew 6: 1 – 15.

DISCUSS: What stands out to you about the Lord's prayer? How can praying it demonstrate faith in Christ? How can praying it be something else? What makes the difference? Why?

SING: *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

PRAY: "God of our fathers, we praise You for the miracle of the incarnation. Jesus, we thank You for becoming a man to set us free. Holy Spirit, we rejoice in Your supernatural power and we pray that You would work in us to declare the glory of Christ to our neighbors, coworkers, and friends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.