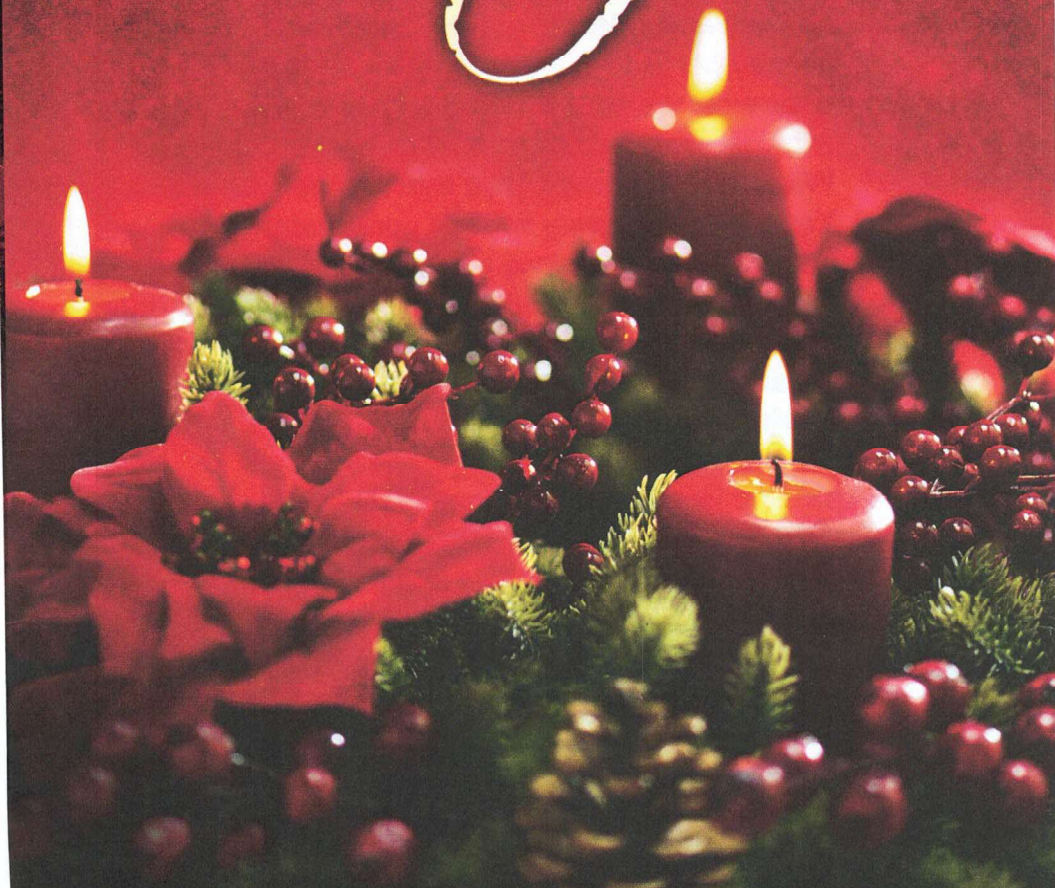


Glory to God



*in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men. Luke 2:14*

FESTIVAL WORSHIP SERVICE
The Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

6:00 PM

Prelude: Sussex Carol- On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jonathon Kosec

*** Call to Worship**

Pastor: We gather today. It is time to worship.

People: We listen for God. It is time to hear.

Pastor: We receive God's grace. It is time to be loved.

People: We leave in peace. It is time to serve others!

Pastor: As we wait for Jesus' arrival, Emanuel, God-with-us, is already here.

People: Wherever we wait for God's time to come, we will witness wonders. Amen.

Pastor: We pray: Emmanuel, God with us, the time is now. You are here! Every light on our Advent wreath is lit because your presence glows among us. However, this night finds us, filled with joy, or touched by grief, alone or in the company of loved ones, you are with us, and so we sing with the angels.

People: Alleluia and Amen!

*** Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (157)**

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all you nations rise, join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark the Herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king.

2. Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see: hail the Incarnate Deity
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel,
Hark the Herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

Scripture Lesson. Isaiah 9:2-7. (NLT)

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder. For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor's rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian.

The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

Carol. "Away In A Manger" (164)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
the stars in the sky look down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky.
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Lesson: Titus 2: 11-14

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

Hymn. "O Come, All Ye Faithful". (147)

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.

Yea Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.
O 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.

Today's Message: "Out of Time" Rev. Jonathon Kosec

Hymn "Good Christians, All, Rejoice (173)

Good Christians, all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say. News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and He is in the manger now
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christians, all, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!
Now you hear of endless bliss. Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blessed evermore,
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Prayers of the Church

The Pastoral Prayer

Pastor will end each petition, "Hurry God, hear our prayers".

The congregation responds, "Tear the heavens and come down."

The Lord's Prayer

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

*Hymn. "Silent Night". (172)

(In lieu of lit candles, the congregation is invited to turn on their cell phone flashlights)

1. 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.
2. 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!

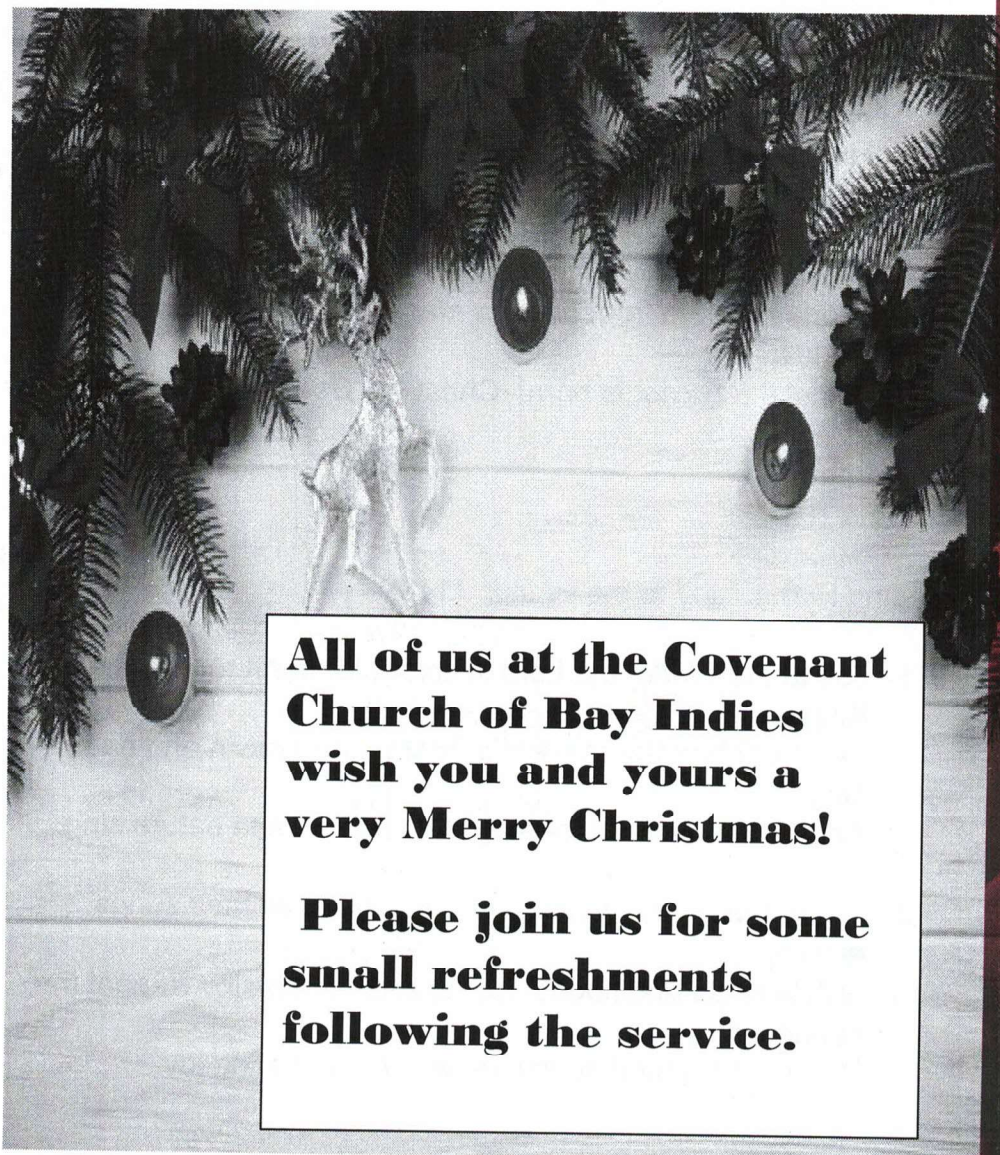
*** Benediction**

Sending Hymn. "Joy to the World". (146)

1. Joy to the World, the Lord is come; let earth receive her
King,
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature
sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing.
2. 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 the sounding joy.

Postlude: Angels From the Realm of Glory Rita Pittman

*** You may choose to stand or remain seated.**



**All of us at the Covenant
Church of Bay Indies
wish you and yours a
very Merry Christmas!**

**Please join us for some
small refreshments
following the service.**

HERMITAGE ART
COMPANY

4175
© Hermitage Art
All rights reserved. Made in USA