

**First Sunday of Christmas
December 26, 2021**

**Gathering
*God invites us to enter His presence***

Prelude

*Christians, Awake!
Unto Us a Boy is Born!*

*Broughton
Paxton*

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)



Call to Worship

Celia Weber

Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.

Let us go with the shepherds:

Let us go to find the Savior!

Let us go with the wise ones:

Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

Let us go with the poor and humble:

Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him:

Christ the Lord!



Invocation

Celia Weber

Emmanuel, God with us,

you are our heart's delight.

Because of your amazing love,

you came to earth,

you became one of us,

you reached out to us while we were lost,

you rescued us from death,

you brought us salvation.

Your love is so high and wide and deep

that it, and only it, could reach this suffering world.

You came to bring an end to our sadness,

to dry our tears, to still our fears, to give us hope.



Hymn 145

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession

Celia Weber

O God, we need Christ to renew our commitment.

We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.

May your angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.

We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.

May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction.

We have turned our faith into a lifeless ritual.

May your manger call us again to expressions of love and devotion.

We have carefully kept our gifts and have not freely given our goods and our hearts to you.

May the Magi show us the spirit of giving.

Lord, may your Spirit linger in our hearts and bring renewal in our lives. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Celia Weber

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!



O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, Thou Dayspring,
Come and cheer Our spirits by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our being.
In the company of the upright, let us honor God for the
blessings and goodness we have received.

Offering

Offertory *There's A Song in the Air* *Harrington*

! Doxology

*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. A-men.*

! Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care. As we contribute to the needs of your people, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

! Hymn 136

The First Noel

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born.

⁵ "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet:

**⁶ And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah:
Because out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."**

⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him."

⁹ After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to

their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

Sermon “The Wise Men”
 Rev. Tim Latham

Responding
We respond to God’s Word

 **Hymn 166** *We Three Kings*

 **Profession of Faith**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

 **Hymn 138** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude** *Rejoice and Be Merry* *Kendall*