



## **Welcome to Worship**

**SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OF DECEMBER 2022**  
**The LORD's Day**

**Christmas Day Celebration**

A Congregation of Grace Presbyterian  
Church of New Zealand



# Welcome to Shore Presbyterian Church

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***"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because  
He has come and has redeemed his people."***

**Call to Worship** Zephaniah 3:17,14,15<sup>1</sup>

<sup>17</sup> The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>14</sup> Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

## Opening Prayer

**Songs of Adoration<sup>2</sup> & Praise** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Author: John Wesley

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time, behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

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<sup>1</sup> All passages of Scripture taken from the English Standard Version.

<sup>2</sup>Adoration: the act of paying honour, as to a divine being; worship; reverent homage; fervent and devoted love.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lay his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die.  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

### ***Joy to the World!***

Words: Isaac Watts, *The Psalms of David* 1719

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
*And heaven and nature sing,*  
*And heaven and nature sing,*  
*And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
*Repeat the sounding joy,*  
*Repeat the sounding joy,*  
*Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
*Far as the curse is found,*  
*Far as the curse is found,*  
*Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
*And wonders of His love,*  
*And wonders of His love,*  
*And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

## **Scripture reading** *Luke 2:1-21*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace  
among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. <sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

## **Song of preparation for hearing God's Word**

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

O Come O Come Emmanuel; Author: Anonymous

O come, O come, Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*

*Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Day-Spring, 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.*

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel..*

### **Scripture Readings:**

#### *Genesis 17:4-8*

<sup>[4]</sup> Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>[5]</sup> No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>[6]</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>[7]</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>[8]</sup> And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.

#### *Exodus 6:2-8*

<sup>[2]</sup> God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. <sup>[3]</sup> I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. <sup>[4]</sup> I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. <sup>[5]</sup> Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. <sup>[6]</sup> Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem

you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. <sup>[7]</sup> I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. <sup>[8]</sup> I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.”

### *Isaiah 7:14*

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

### *Matthew 1:18-25*

<sup>[18]</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>[19]</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>[20]</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>[21]</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>[22]</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>[23]</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>[24]</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>[25]</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

### **Christmas Message** *“Immanuel: God with us!”*

1) God

2) with

3) us.

## **Closing Song** *Go Tell It On The Mountain*

African American Spiritual

While shepherds kept their watching  
Over silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens,  
There shone a holy light,

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Saviour's birth,

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation,  
That blessed Christmas morn,

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

## **BENEDICTION**

I will make my dwelling among you. I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

Leviticus 26:11-12

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***We pray that, through the rest and refreshment of this Christmas and holiday season, you may grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus, Whom to know is eternal life.***

***Looking forward to gathering, worshipping,  
growing and serving together in the New Year***



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