

December 3, 2023

This is the month, and this the happy morn,
 Wherein the Son of Heav'n's eternal King,
Of wedded Maid, and Virgin Mother born,
 Our great redemption from above did bring;
For so the holy sages once did sing,
 That he our deadly forfeit should release,
 And with his Father work us a perpetual peace.

— John Milton, *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity*

Christ, Our Hope

Scripture for Meditation

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.

English Standard Version. © 2001 by Crossway Bibles. Used by permission.



Hymn of Longing

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Offertory Hymn of Joy

Joy Has Dawned Upon the World

Joy has dawned upon the world,
Promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
Hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
Not with scenes of glory,

But a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
Shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast,
Vuln'erable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
Gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophecy the story.
Gold, a King is born today;
Incense, God is with us;
Myrrh, His death will make a way,
And by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heav'n,
Given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man—
Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Saviour, what a Friend,
What a glorious myst'ry:
Once a babe in Bethlehem,
Now the Lord of hist'ry.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty © 2011 Gettymusic

Arranged by Keith Getty

Angels We Have Heard on High: traditional French carol translated into English by James Chadwick, 1813-1882

CCLI #2783020

Prayer of Blessing

Responsive Reading

Matthew 1:18–25

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. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and

unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

**“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”**

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

Hymn of Invitation

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,

Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you.

Traditional carol in *Spiewniczek Piesni Koscielne*, 1908; translated from Polish to English by Edith M. Reed, 1921.

Prayer of Corporate Confession

Silence for Personal Confession

Take a moment for self-reflection, and talk with God quietly about your sin and your need for a Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise

The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,

Born is the King of Israel.

They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

Old English carol, 1833

Confession of Faith

EBC Statement of Faith: Of the Way of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the virgin-born Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen bodily from the dead he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

Dismissal for Children

During this next song, children ages 3 – K5 may be dismissed for children's classes downstairs.

Hymn of Glory

Who Is He in Yonder Stall?

Who is He in yonder stall
At Whose feet the shepherds fall?
Who is He in deep distress,
Fasting in the wilderness?

Refrain

*'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord! the King of glory!
At His feet we humbly fall,
Crown Him! Crown Him, Lord of all!*

Who is He the people bless
For His words of gentleness?
Who is He to Whom they bring
All the sick and sorrowing?

Lo! at midnight, who is He
Prays in dark Gethsemane?
Who is He on yonder tree
Dies in grief and agony?

Who is He that from the grave
Comes to heal and help and save?

Emmanuel Bible Church is a community of believers committed to glorifying God by applying the Gospel to every area of life and to making disciples who will love God with all their hearts and their neighbors as themselves.

We are thrilled to be a part of what God is doing in the Upstate. Few things are as exciting as seeing lives and relationships changed through the clear teaching of God's Word. After all, we are made expressly to be in a relationship with Him and to recognize Jesus as our Lord and Savior. At Emmanuel we strive to bring God glory through singing and praying together, hearing His Word preached, loving Him, and loving one another.

We would be delighted to have an opportunity to meet you. We are here to help and encourage you through the teaching of God's Word and through biblical fellowship.

—*Brad Baugham, teaching pastor*

Ministers

The congregation at large

Pastors

Jonathan Bastoni
Brad Baugham
Will Coen
Jared Garcia
Rhett Gieck
David Schwingle

Deacons

Duel Deason, Facilities
Norman Bunn, Facilities

Minister of Worship

Brian Pinner

*Administrative Assistant &
Children's Ministries*

Margaret Bastoni

Nursery Director

Janine Gieck

*Welcome & Greeting
Coordinator*

Sherry Ferguson