



**WEST BRIDGEWATER**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Saturday, December 24, 2023  
Christmas Eve Service

*Join us live on our Facebook or YouTube page beginning at 5:00 p.m.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”**

*Words: James Montgomery. Music: Henry T. Smart.*

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen the Infant’s star:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Though an Infant now we view Him, He shall fill His Father’s throne;  
gather all the nations to Him; ev’ry knee shall then bow down:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

**Advent Reading and Candle Lighting**

**Isaiah 42:1–9 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;

he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
<sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.  
  
<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
<sup>6</sup> “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to carved idols.  
<sup>9</sup> Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth  
I tell you of them.”

### **John 8:12 (ESV)**

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

### **Hymn: “Exult in the Savior’s Birth”**

*Words and music: Matt Boswell and D. A. Carson.*

Shepherds watched their flocks at night, attending lowly sheep.  
Now within a cattle shed, a much stranger watch they keep.  
Today, a Savior has been born and He is Christ, the Lord.  
Placed within a humble trough, this baby must be adored.

Pagan wise men from the East seek out the infant King.  
Trackless miles behind them lie and now all their rev’rence bring.  
They have come to worship Him with spices and with gold.  
Countless millions seek Him still, whose advent was long foretold.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is giv'n.  
He shall reign in righteousness, this Counselor King from heav'n.  
The government will rest on Him, He is the mighty God.  
Prince of Peace, this gentle King, yet rules with a mighty rod.

Scriptures say that Mary's boy was born that He might die.  
Angel voices burst in praise, their harmony fills the sky.  
Sing, "Glory in the highest heav'n!" Sing, "Gracious peace on earth!"  
Those on whom His favor rests exult in the Savior's birth.

### **Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

*Words: Phillips Brooks. Music: Lewis H. Redner.*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and Peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray!  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today!  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

### **Sermon: "Glory to God in the Highest"**

#### **Luke 2:1–20 (ESV)**

<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 great 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 Savior, 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.

### **Hymn: “The First Noel”**

*Words: Traditional English Carol. Music: Traditional English Carol.*

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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

They looked 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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star  
the wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a King was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
Who hath made Heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

## **Hymn: “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”**

*Words: Edmund H. Sears. Music: Richard S. Willis.*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heavens all gracious King!”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long,  
beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
and man, at war with man, hears not the love song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing!

All ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## **Lighting of Candles**

### **Hymn: “Silent Night, Holy Night”**

*Words: Joseph Mayr. Music: Franz Gruber.*

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

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

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

## **Benediction**

May God grant you the grace to be like the wise men, making every effort to worship King Jesus.  
May Jesus, the Prince of Peace, grant you peace as you come to him.  
May the Holy Spirit fill your heart with the love of God.  
Merry Christmas. Go in peace.