



December 24, 2023
WE GATHER TO WORSHIP
 6:30 p.m.

PRELUDE *Piano/Chancel Organ*

STRIKING THE HOUR *"Adeste Fideles"* *The Carillon Bells*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

† EVENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

† ANTHEM *"Gloria Patri"* Page 813

† Please stand as you are able.

"CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT"

Liturgy and musical arrangement / Rev. John O. Strauss

† INTROIT *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* Page 249
 (All Verses)

1ST READING

2ND READING
 Hymn *"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"* Page 251
 (All Verses)

3RD READING
 Hymn *"Away In A Manger"* Page 262
 (Verses)

4TH READING
 Hymn *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"* Page 272
 (Verses 1,4,5)

5TH READING
 Hymn *"Silent Night"* Page 253
 (Verses 1,2,4)



6TH READING
 Hymn *"Joy To The World"* Page 270
 (Verses 1,4)

Solo *"O Holy Night"* Mrs. Pat Perkins

7TH READING
 Hymn *"Go Tell It On The Mountain"* Page 288
 (All Verses)

HOMILY *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent, Or Shut Up; It's Christmas."*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
(Please hold the Elements until all are served.)

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
We light candles as a sign of the coming Light of Christ.

ANTHEM *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence!"* R. M. Music
 (All Verses)

Hymn *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* Page 250
 (All Verses)

BENEDICTION



GO IN PEACE AND HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS

OUR MISSION
 TO PRESENT CHRIST TO EVERYONE,
 EVERYWHERE, AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.



THE LESSONS FOR USE ON THE
NATIVITY OF THE LORD
 Isaiah 9:2-7 • Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-20 • Psalm 96

WE AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING:

- The Holy Trinity of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God has revealed Himself fully and decisively in Holy Scripture. We believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be God's inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word and our guide for faith and life.
- There is only one way to Salvation - through Jesus Christ.
- The sanctity of human life based on God's creation of us in His image and our election by God for service in His Kingdom. This truth leads us to affirm life's sanctity at every stage, from conception to ordinary death.
- The Biblical guidelines for immutable gender and sexuality. The exclusive union of one man and one woman in marriage; and fidelity to its vows. And chastity outside of marriage for the sake of the Kingdom.
- God made all people from one man, and although different ethnicities and nationalities can distinguish people, we are all one human race and absolute equals before God in creation, the need for repentance, and the offer of redemption.
- The Church's mission is to spread the Good News of the Gospel in every word and deed, proclaiming to the world the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and seeking to bring every person into a life of faith, discipleship, and submission to Him.



In this constantly changing world our goal is to reflect and recapture the historic and classical worship of Almighty God. Central to our service is the proclamation of the Word and a biblical understanding of the Sacraments in the tradition of the Evangelical and Reformed faith



The MIRACLE
~ AND THE ~
MEANING
~ OF THE ~
INCARNATION

The INCARNATION refers literally to the in-fleshing of the eternal Son of God – Jesus “putting on our flesh and blood” and becoming fully human. The doctrine of the incarnation affirms that the eternal second person of the Trinity took on humanity in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. A helpful way to remember the key aspects of the Incarnation is the summary statement of John 1:14: “The Word became flesh.”

The WORD

The Word refers to the eternal divine Son who was “in the beginning with God” and who himself is God (John 1:1). From eternity past until he took on humanity, the Son of God existed in perfect love, joy, and harmony in the fellowship of the Trinity. Like the Father and the Spirit, he was spirit and had no material substance. But the eternal Word entered creation as a human at the Incarnation and became a first-century Jewish man.

BECAME

The word "became" does not mean he ceased to be God. In becoming man, he did not forsake his divine nature, as if that were even an option. Instead, he became man by taking on human nature in addition to his divine nature. It is essential to the incarnation – and helpful throughout all theology – to recognize that divinity and humanity are not mutually exclusive. The Son of God didn't have to pick between being God and being man. He could be both at the same time. The eternal Word became human.

FLESH

Flesh isn't merely a reference to the human body but the entirety of what makes up humanity – body, mind, emotions, and will. Hebrews 2:17 and 4:15 teach that Jesus had to be made like us “in every respect” except our sin to save human beings. So, everything proper to humanity was united to the Son of God in the Incarnation – the Son of God who did not only become like man but became truly and fully human.

The WORD BECAME FLESH

So, without ceasing to be God, the eternal Son of God took on a fully human nature. This concept is what Christians have long called “the Incarnation.” And what a magnificent truth and fuel for worship this is. Jesus didn't just become a man because he could. This act was no circus stunt, just for show, because He became man, in the words of the ancient creed, “for us and for our salvation.” The eternal Word became frail human flesh and blood to save us from our sins and to free us to marvel at and enjoy the unique union of divinity and humanity in his one spectacular person.

The INCARNATION is not only the way in which Jesus became Emmanuel – God *with us* – but it's an eternal testimony that he and his Father are unswervingly *for us*.

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for, with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood. He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.
4. At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, “Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Join Us On
January 5th
@ 6:00 PM
Removing of the Greens
Taking down the Tree is just as fun as putting it up (said no one ever) but please come help us anyway.

I FEEL LIKE
NOBODY REALLY
LIKES ME...
FRUITCAKE.

THE ELDERS
TEACHING & WORSHIP
Rev. H. Joseph Kler
Senior Pastor / I.F.O.C. Chaplain
Rev. John O. Strauss
Worship Leader / Minister of Music

THE DEACONS
Jim Leitzke, Gary Hatrick

OUR MUSICIANS
Ann Dantuma
Pianist/Organist
Donna Zenisek-Huber
Flutist

SOUND BOOTH
Ric Romyn, Joe Negron,
Jonathan Kler

To contact Board President
John Vosteen, please call:
813-731-2803

To contact
the Pastor, please call:
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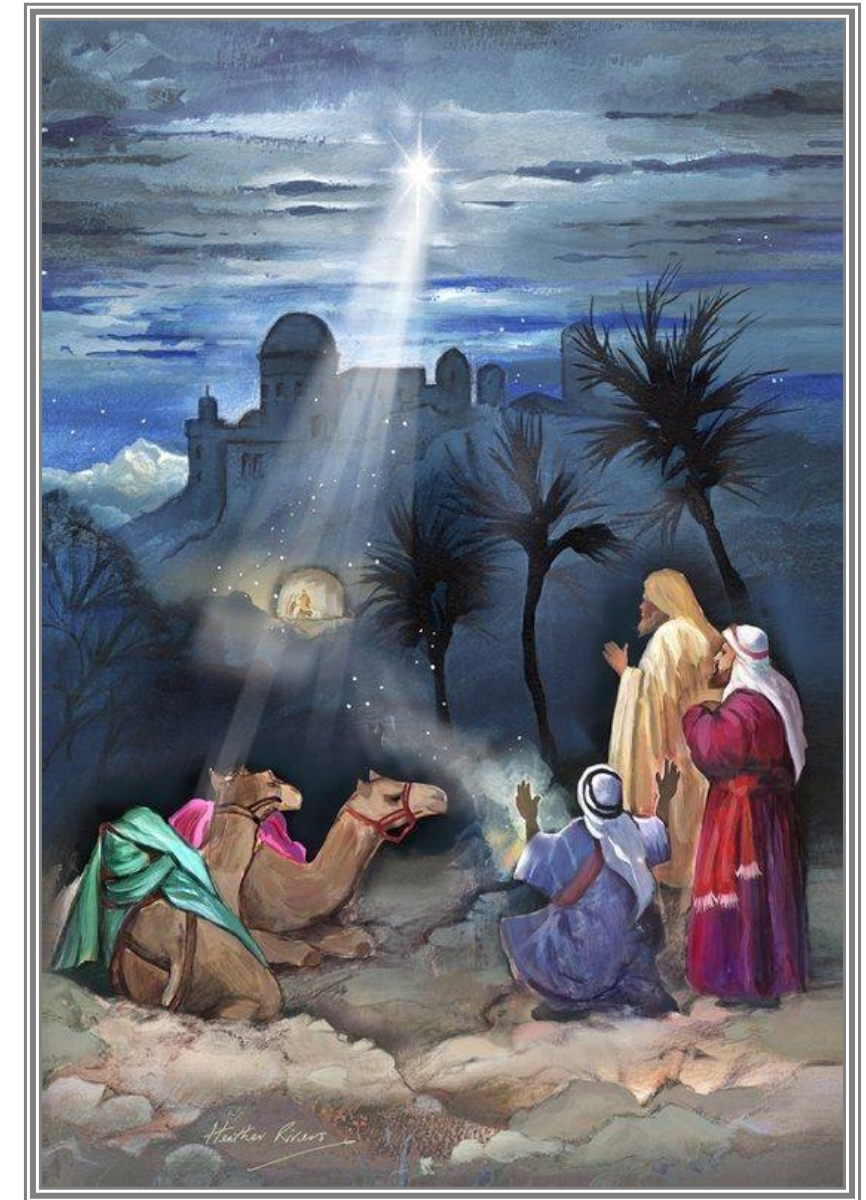
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Or Phone: 813-780-6027
Monday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



FAIRVIEW

COMMUNITY CHURCH of ZEPHYRHILLS
...a Christ-centered, Reformed faith fellowship.

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing, but encourage one another as the Day of the Lord draws near. -Hebrews 10:25



7900 Fort King Road – Zephyrhills, FL 33541
813-780-6027 / fcczh@aol.com
Radio Frequency 87.9
www.fcczhills.org