



December 24, 2021
LET US GLORIFY GOD
 6:30 p. m.

PRELUDE *Piano/Chancel Organ*
 CALL TO WORSHIP "O, Come All Ye Faithful" *The Carillon Bells*
 STRIKING THE HOUR
 WELCOME TO WORSHIP
 †INTROIT "O Holy Night" Page 285
 (Verse 1)
 †EVENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
 †ANTHEM "Gloria Patri" Page 813

"Carols and Candle Light"

Worship and musical arrangement / Rev. John O. Strauss

1ST READING
 Hymn "Let's Worship and Adore Him" Page 247
 (Verse 1)
2ND READING
 Hymn "The First Noel" Page 265
 (Verses 1,2,6)
3RD READING
 Hymn "Sing We Now of Christmas" Page 275
 (Verses 1,2,3)
4TH READING
 Hymn "That Beautiful Name" Page 266
 (Verses 1,2,3)
5TH READING
 Hymn "What Child Is This" Page 281
 (Verses 1,3)

6TH READING
 Hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Page 279
 (Verses 1,2)
7TH READING
 Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" Page 278
 (All Verses)
8TH READING
 Solo "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" Patricia Janicki
 (Verses 1,2)
9TH READING
 Hymn "What Can I Give Him" Page 263
 (Verses 1)

EXPOSITION OF THE WORD AND CONFESSION OF FAITH

"Decked in the Hall!"
 1st Timothy 3:16

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

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

† HYMN "Silent Night! Holy Night!" Page 253
 (All Verses)
 BENEDICTION



GO IN PEACE AND HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS



**The Lessons Use on the
 NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
 ISAIAH 52:7-10 • PSALM 98 •
 1ST TIMOTHY 3:16 • JOHN 1:1-14

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 the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God and our guide for faith and life.
- There is only one way to Salvation - through Jesus Christ.
- The sanctity of human life based on our creation in the image of God and our election by God for service in His Kingdom. This leads us to respectfully affirm the sanctity of life at every stage, from conception to ordinary death.
- The Biblical guidelines for human sexuality: That marriage is the exclusive union of one man and one woman; and fidelity and holiness in marriage and chastity outside of marriage for the sake of the Kingdom.
- God made all people from one man and although people can be distinguished by different ethnicities and nationalities, we are all one human race and absolute equals before God in creation, the need for repentance, and the offer of redemption.
- That the mission of the Church 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.

OUR MISSION

TO PRESENT CHRIST TO EVERYONE,
 EVERYWHERE, AT EVERY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY.

OUR VISION

TO BE A LOVING, CARING CHURCH
 WHOSE ARMS EMBRACE ALL THAT COME

IMPORTANT CHURCH ATTENDANCE INFORMATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER.
 By your attendance you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to bacteria, viruses, and other microscopic particles that cause illness in humans, including COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. You and any guests voluntarily waive all rights and assume all risks related to said exposure and agree NOT TO HOLD First Congregational Church of Zephyrhills, its officers, employees, agents, contractors, or volunteers liable for any illness or injury that may result either now or in the future.

Every year, around this time, we hear Scripture passages and sing Christmas carols about "peace on earth and good will to men." We light candles and sing "Silent Night, all is calm and all is bright."



And it's beautiful, perhaps even nostalgic for so many of us. But does it really make any difference? You look at the world around us and you see all the unrest, violence, pain and brokenness. And you wonder...is peace really possible?

Or you look at our nation, still feeling the aftershocks of one of the most contentious election cycles in modern U.S. history. You've seen the deep divisions across the country, perhaps experienced them in your own communities, in your workplace and neighborhoods, maybe even in your own family. Is peace really possible?

Of course, we need not look around to see the signs of pain and brokenness. We look within ourselves, and we find the restlessness in our own hearts, the divisions within; we feel the ache, the longing for something more, for our lives to be well and whole. Is peace really possible?

The world is not the way it's supposed to be - but you don't need anyone to tell you that - you already know as much. Sin made a mess of things, disrupted our lives and fractured our relationships. But God refuses to just stand by and watch the world go to hell. So, what does God do? God enters into the mess, the darkness, the brokenness. God comes to be with us, and among us, and He does it in His Son. In the Messiah, the Savior, who came to draw the world back together, draw people back to God, and usher in God's peace for all the nations.

And, that Savior has a name...Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace...Jesus, which means "God saves." And that Savior has a face...the scrunched up, ruddy face of an infant - so helpless and vulnerable, born into straw and poverty to a teenage mom and her fiancé. And he came bringing another kingdom - the one Isaiah speaks of - in the line of David, Israel's greatest king - a kingdom of peace. A peace that is not just the absence of conflict but one in which we can finally be at peace with God - forgiven and put back in right relationship. One in which the Holy Spirit is poured out on us and where God, give us courage to bear witness to the impossible possibility of a different kind of world - to a way of peace that is not only how the world can be, but how it shall be, when Christ returns and the glory of the Lord floods the whole earth! Peace is coming - Even so, come Lord Jesus! Amen

TO OUR VISITORS,

Christmas has a way of bringing to Church individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to a worship service for months or perhaps years. If that is you - what a wonderful and grace filled opportunity to put aside past hurts and old habits and begin a new and prayerful relationship with the Lord and His people. We extend to you a sincere welcome. May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this time of hope and grace.



The Chancel Flowers are placed by:
Peter & Carol Simon,
in Loving Memory of their son Jason



Bible Study Resumes.....Wednesday, January 5th at 4:00 p.m.
Removal of the Greens.....Friday, January 7th at 6:00 p.m.
G.A.L.S. Meeting.....Monday, January 10th at 12:30 p.m.
Next Diaconate Meeting.....Tuesday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m.
Next Council Meeting.....Tuesday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m.

We extend to you our prayerful best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas.



ELDERS
TEACHING / WORSHIP
Rev. H. Joseph Kler
Senior Pastor / I.F.O.C. Chaplain
•
Rev. John O. Strauss
Minister of Music / Choir Director

MUSICIANS
Pianists : Dee Schultz, Ann Dantuma,
Flutist: Donna Zenisek-Huber

SOUND BOOTH TECHNICIANS
Joe Negron, Jonathan Kler

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Council President | John Vosteen |
| Vice-President | Marshall Whitcomb |
| Financial Secretary | Sandra Hauner |
| Treasurer | Pam Lain |
| Education | Don Binkley |
| Women's Fellowship | Vickie Kler |
| Multi-Media | Rick Romyn |
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| Events/Hospitality | Clara Vostpen |
| Stewardship | Bill Thompson |
| Outreach | Cheryl Howard |

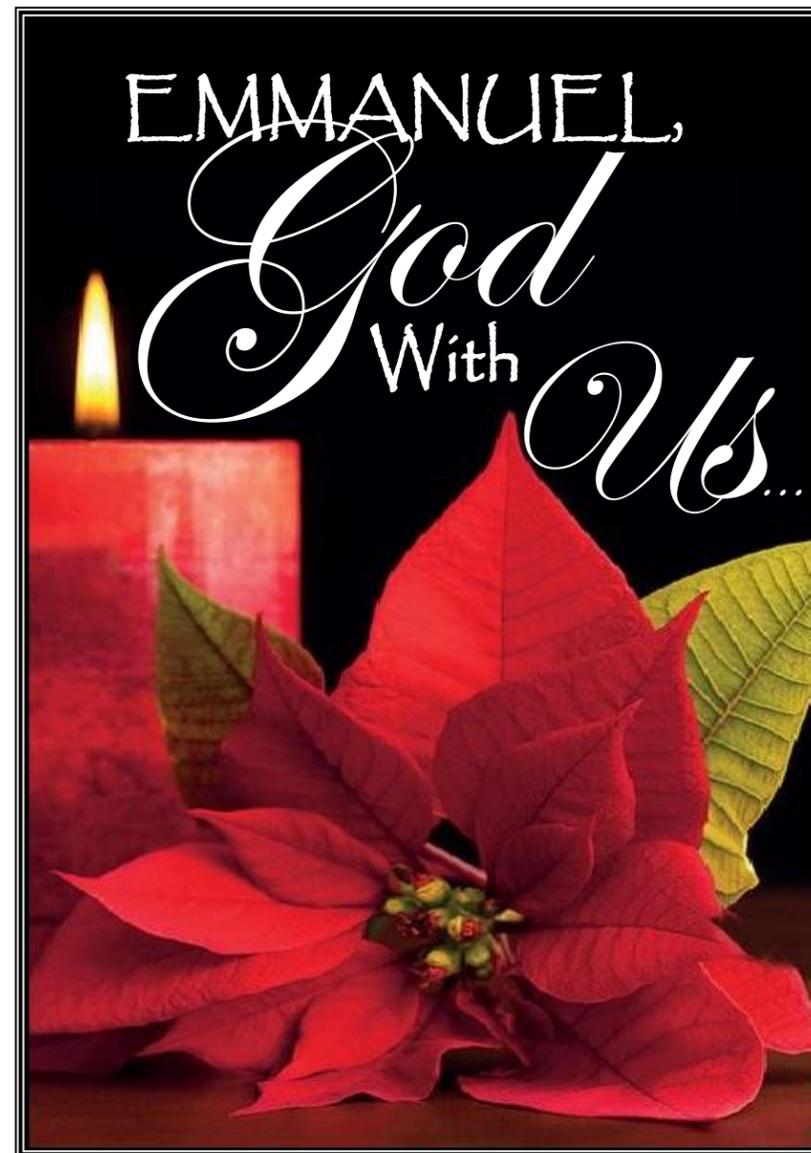
To Contact Council President John Vosteen, please call: 813-731-2803
To contact the Pastor, please call: 813-323-0802 or Vickie's Cell: 863-409-8850

OUR VOLUNTEER STAFFED
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Phone: 813-780-6027 • Website: www.fcczhills.org • Email: fcczh@aol.com



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH of ZEPHYRHILLS

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



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