



December 25, 2023

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Day

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged in Spirit-filled Service.



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Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are available from the ushers

This is the day that children of all ages anticipate for months. With great joy we celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Incarnation" comes from a Latin word meaning God wrapped Himself in the flesh and blood of His own human creation and humbled Himself to be born of the Virgin Mary. Christ the Savior is born! Let us rejoice and celebrate!

The Carol #384 v1-3, 5

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

The Opening

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: We praise You, God the Father.

People: You love the world so much that You sent Your only-begotten Son to live in our midst, and clothed Him in human flesh and blood.

Pastor: We praise You, God the Son.

People: You came into this world to give Your life for us, that we might have the gift of life.

Pastor: We praise You, God the Holy Spirit.

People: Your presence among us and dwelling in us brings us life and light.

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

People: and the government will be on His shoulders.

Pastor: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

People: He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Pastor: The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. *Isaiah 9:6-7*

People: To God be glory and praise, both now and evermore. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he

upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” ⁷ Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” ⁸ But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” ¹⁰ And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹² like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

Anthem *“From Heaven High, I Come to Earth”*

The Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ”) ¹⁶ And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses;

grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The Carol #389 v1-3, 7

"Let All Together Praise Our God"



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.

7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

The Message

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy

Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was

crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He

rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right

hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the

living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Our Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ: there was a time when the world sat in darkness, separated from God because of sin. Since we human beings were unable to find God in that darkness, He came near to us as a baby, born of a virgin, bringing with Him the great light of our salvation. I encourage you to come near to God, open your hearts to Him, and confess to Him your sins. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and deeds. The world has tempted us in this Christmas season to put our delight and joy in material things, to be envious of others, and to center our celebrations around ourselves rather than on You. Thus we have sinned against You and against one another.

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. *Psalm 51:17*

People: The celebration You desire is the worship of the heart. Forgive our sins, O Lord, for the sake of the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, who died for us. Decorate our hearts with repentance and joy that our Christmas celebration may be pleasing to You.

Pastor: This Child whose birth we celebrate came among us to live perfectly in our stead, to give His life in payment for our sins, to rise from the grave for our justification, and to give us new life. In His name and at His command, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Words Of Institution

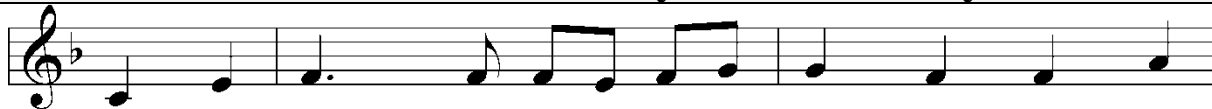
Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

The Distribution

The Carol #376

“Once in Royal David’s City”



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

The Blessing

Pastor: May the Good News of Christmas be a blessing to you throughout the year.

People: May we demonstrate to the world the faith God gives us.

Pastor: May we share with people everywhere the love, the compassion, the fatherly care of our gracious God.

People: May we experience the hope He offers us in these troubled times.

Pastor: May the blessing of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit go with you as you joyously celebrate the birthday of your Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Now may the Lord watch between us while we are absent from one another. Amen.

The Carol #387

“Joy to the World”



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

The Poinsettias that Decorate the church were donated by

Carol & Jerry Campbell	In memory of their parents
Carol Cambell	In memory of her brother
Lance & Jerry Pailer	In memory of their mothers Marie & Mary
Jack & Rosalyn Carson	In Memory of their parents, Julie , & Sue
Jaye & Cindy McCrea	In memory of their parents
Don & Pam Menke	In memory of their loved ones
Mike & Reda Joost	In Memory of their parents
Alison Vancott	Those before us
Shirley & Bob Mai x2	In memory of their parents
Susan & Walter Krause x2	In memory of their parents
Janis & Mara Lipacis	In memory of their parents
Rosemary Bonnough	In memory of Clay Bonnough
Pat & Jean Page	In memory of their parents
Davis Mortensen	In memory of Ann & Cathy
Kathy & Gary Roper	In memory of their parents & son
Robert & Marcia Elkins	In memory of their parents Carl & Nippy Johnson, Edward & Marian Elkins