

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, December 18, 2022 • 10:00 AM



PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Emmanuel, God with us, we praise you for your presence throughout the amazing universe you have made. The shining stars sing your praise which echoes in the depth of space. The smallest snowflake and a baby's tiny fingers reflect your intricate love for the details of each and every life. In Jesus Christ, you were born among us, to show us how your great love is lived out day by day. Inspire us with your loving Spirit as we move through Advent toward Christmas Day, so that our celebrations of love made flesh in Jesus will share the presence of your love with those who need it most. So may we live the praise we offer to you, Emmanuel, God with us, now and evermore.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neil Trainer

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 103:19-22 NRSV)

One: The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

All: **Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.**

One: Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

All: **Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul.**

HYMN #23, vs. 1-3 "Angels We Have Heard On High"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Calvin Deacons

HYMN #2, vs. 1-2 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emily Mitchell

While we ask, Lord, for a meaningful Advent season, we sadly confess having done so little with so much.

Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee, for not reading your Word, for not searching our hearts,

for not facing our sins. Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!

Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory, through whom we continue to silently pray. (silence for reflection)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

DOXOLOGY

OFFERING "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Emma McAndrew

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT "The Birth of Our Savior"

Jenny Cross, director, and Beth R., assistant director

Opening Scene: The Prophets Foretold

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" v. 1 and refrain only

The Annunciation

The Angel Appears to Joseph

The Nativity

"Away in a Manger" Hymn #25, v. 1 children and cast; vs. 2-3 congregation and cast

The Shepherds

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" Hymn #22, vs. 1-3

Herod and the Wise Men

"Joy to the World" Hymn #40, vs. 1-4

PASTORAL PRAYER

Linda Erickson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

SONG OF SENDING "How Great Our Joy"

BENEDICTION

Finance Team Update

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” – Malachi 3:10

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation, a time to bless those around us, and a time to be blessed. It is also traditionally the time at Calvin that we prayerfully consider God’s call to share those blessings through our stewardship of time and resources. When we generously give back to God, we can expect blessings in return: a growing faith, a more joyful nature, a diminishing dependence on worldly things, a deeper dependence on God, and much, much more.

December giving to Calvin is always critical to fully funding our ministries. For the first half of our fiscal year, contributions to Calvin have been about \$50,000 under our budget. So please spend time in prayer in the coming days to discern God’s stewardship call to you. Consider a special year-end gift to Calvin. If you’re age 70½, you can make a year-end gift from your IRA account and satisfy your required minimum distribution. Don’t be afraid to “test” God and then in the coming months watch closely for His blessings.

See this past Friday’s email for more specific numbers and details about Calvin’s financial standing.

We do appreciate all those who have sent in pledges for giving

to the general fund in 2023! It’s not too late to send in a pledge if you have not yet done so.

Thank you all again for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Calvin church! Expect to receive your year-end contribution statements in the mail towards the end of January. As always, if you have any financial questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Elder [Dan Coppin](#), head of the Finance Team, or to [Kirsty Haining](#), our Support Ministries Director.

New Youth Groups in January

We are pleased to announce that Calvin’s session discerned that we want to partner with Rev. Nathan Seppi, a PC(USA) youth pastor at Bethany Community Church North.

Beginning in January 2023, we will have youth group in Calvin’s building again: Summit (high school) and Reach (middle school) will meet on Sunday and Monday respectively from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

What’s great is that Summit and Reach are designed to be groups where students are invited to encounter God and each other; it’s not exclusively for Bethany North families. Our hope is that any local youth, including those affiliated with Calvin, will have their faith in God and their knowledge of God’s love expand with this addition to what Calvin is already offering at other times during the week and month. Questions? Talk to [Pastor Emily](#).

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

// Saturday, December 24, 7 pm

Join with us as we celebrate the last day of Advent and the coming of Jesus: Emmanuel, God with us, gift of indescribable joy. The 12-Bells will play again in the foyer at Calvin prior to the Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Day Service

// Sunday, December 25 at 10 am

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. Calvin will be open for our 10 am Worship Service as usual. Pastor Emily Mitchell has designed a “Lessons & Carols” type of service to celebrate our Savior’s birth. Feel free to dress comfortably in an ugly Christmas sweater or even in Christmas pajamas, if you’d like. Many Christmas carols will be sung! We hope to see you there.



Happy Birthday!

Dean Rowley	Dec. 19
John Claus.....	Dec. 20
Kristi Trainer	Dec. 20
Al Lutz	Dec. 22
Jonas Chase.....	Dec. 23
Linda Elton.....	Dec. 24
Yoko Weaver	Dec. 25
Josh Logan.....	Dec. 27
Ruth Park	Dec. 27
Ethan Weschler	Dec. 29
Lenore Zissermann	Dec. 29
Michael Johnson.....	Dec. 31



Upcoming Events

Messy Church, 5:30 pm in the Activity Center..... Jan. 04