

As We Gather

We gather in church on this First Sunday after Christmas just a few days removed from the crowds of Christmas Eve. Fewer seem to gather on this day than on Christmas Eve, yet our trip to church today still brings us the amazing gift of our Savior, born to redeem us and to adopt us into the Body of Christ. Today is a great day to really think about what we just celebrated – free of all the distractions. Our service today is based on a series of carols and Scripture readings and devotional thoughts intended to help us “ponder all these things in our hearts.”

PRELUDE**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING****OPENING HYMN:*****"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*****Hymn #379****THE INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.**THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

(please kneel)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

Amen.**FIRST READING: Matthew 1:23**

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.”

HYMN:***"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*****Hymn #357, stanzas 1, 4, 5, 7**

SECOND READING: Psalm 98:4-9

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together ⁹ before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

HYMN (Saturday service): *"Joy to the World"* **Hymn #387**

ANTHEM (Sunday service): *"And the Glory of the Lord"* Festival Choir

THIRD READING: Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ 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, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ 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.

HYMN: *"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"* **Hymn #374**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Tim Jacobsmeyer
Director of Music

FOURTH READING: John 1:1-14

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 any thing 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 gives light to 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.

HYMN: *"What Child Is This"* **Hymn #370**

THE MESSAGE: Seminarian Lee Hopf

THE CHRISTMAS CREED:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, Who sent His Son to be my Savior;

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, adored by the Wise Men; Who lived to suffer, die and rise again, to free me from sin, death and the power of the devil;

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, and by Whose continuous work in my heart, I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my worship, my life, my love; and to live under Him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

Today we continue to celebrate the birth of our Savior at Bethlehem.

We also prepare for His return in glory on the last day.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, "*Lord in Your mercy,*" and the congregation will respond, "***Hear our prayer.***"

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 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.

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:36-38

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

HYMN:

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Hymn #359

SIXTH READING: Mark 16:15

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

SENDING AND BENEDICTION

Let us therefore go and proclaim the gospel, just as we have been sent, with the blessing of the Lord our God: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Amen.

HYMN:

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Hymn #388

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many Thanks to Lee Hopf for delivering the message today. Lee is in his final year at the seminary and we look forward to finding out where his first call will be next April.

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Carl & Charleen Beahm, in honor of Pete LeBorious and Tim Jacobsmeyer.

No Education Hour This Weekend: There will be no classes on Sunday, December 27th, for any age groups due to Christmas break. Take this time to enjoy some extra fellowship time with your church friends and family! Christian Education Hour resumes next Sunday with classes for all ages!

Macon Mayhem: There are still 12 tickets left for TAG's trip to the Macon Mayhem game on Friday, January 8th. Youth can either come on their own or families can make a night of it. Tickets are on a first paid, first seated basis. We are in the first few rows on center ice!

Mount Calvary has received a gift in memory of Tony Keyes, Evy Keyes' father, from Carl & Barbara Mabee.

Sweethearts Dinner - Sunday, February 14th, 6-8 pm in the Michael Fellowship Hall. We look forward to a delicious meal and the traditional chocolate dessert contest where you, the guests, provide your favorite chocolate indulgence. The Board of Fellowships asks folks to bring in a wedding photo to display during the event. Babysitting will be provided. If you have any questions, please see your BOF members, Keith Dierking, Deb Fingles, Michelle Crawford, and Doug Branham. Cost is \$5 a person. What a deal!

Wednesday Nights Resume: Our midweek time of Christian Fellowship & Education resumes on Wednesday, January 6th, with dinner at 5:30 and classes beginning at 6:16. What a great way to start off the new year!

Nursery volunteers – Please make sure to check the schedule in the nursery to see when you are scheduled to volunteer!! The schedule for December and January is on the wall in the nursery. A big THANK YOU to all of our nursery volunteers!! I appreciate your help and your willingness to serve Mount Calvary's smallest members!!! If you have any questions, please feel free to call or text Cynthia at (478)718-9340.

*Thank
You*

Sonja, the boys and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Mount Calvary for your amazing support of our ministry and life among you. While your generous Christmas gift is greatly appreciated, it is just the tip of the iceberg compared to all the other ways you support our family. I want to thank all those among you who have adopted us as brothers & sisters, aunts & uncles, and even some grandparents. Through you, our lives have been forever blessed.

And I thank all of you who join in on the work of ministry! Ministry would not be able to happen without the members of all our boards, Sunday school teachers, Wednesday night workers, small group leaders, parent volunteers, members of the SLDT, and (most recently) those of you helping to launch Rebecca's Garden @ Mount Calvary. I would be remiss if I did not thank the amazing group of people I get to work with each and every day: Pastor, Vicar, Tim, Cynthia, Becky, Don, and Jack make up an amazing ministry team that makes being joy-filled in ministry possible! We consider ourselves blessed to be part of such an amazing church family! Thank you once again for everything you do! – *Pete LeBorions*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Gerald Eschke, who has hospitalized this past week.

Fred Crawford, Rob's father, who had a pacemaker put in on December 17th.

Betsy Luppino, whose Parkinson's Disease symptoms are making it difficult for her to swallow.

Keep In Your Prayers

Jeannie Hawkins, Josie Kong (Evy Keyes' mom), Sonya Popken, Karen Harmon, Marrison Halsell, Regina Ragan, Jan Clark, Deloris Denzine, Chet Branscom and Karen Johnson.

(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Those battling cancer: Ken Reilly, Anne Harter (daughter of Dick & Susan Kesler), Margaret Frazier, Mary Jahnke (Joe's sister), Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Paula Babcock, Kathy Grube, Chet Branscom, Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom), Bruce Oswalt (Krystal Ferguson's father), Gary Jennings (Margaret Jennings' son) and Elaine Mead (Jeannie Hawkins' aunt).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Matthew Forehand, Jake Huffman, Chris Walker, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Michael Welch, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Lee Hopf. **LITURGIST:** Vicar Tim Staffeld. **ELDERS:** Laird Van Gorder (8 am) and Bob Gerstenberger (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Abigail Halsell (8 am) and Libby Parsons (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Brian Harper, David Rossman, Bob Yeager & Richard Uitto. Late – Mike Hopf, Bruce Bauman, Dave Harter, Ed Bodony & Earl Bogardus. **ALTAR GUILD:** Sallie Brinkley, Barbara Locke, Sherry Parsons & Pat Stetzler. **LAY READERS:** Judy Van Gorder (8 am) and Cindy Schafer (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Gary Webb. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Lyle Wurdeman (8 am) and Josh Johnson (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Kenn Keyes (Sat 6 pm), Eric Gossman (Sun 8 am) and Open (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Christopher Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Andrew LeBorious (Sun 8 am) and Colton Wurdeman (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Sallie Brinkley, Barbara Locke, Sherry Parsons & Pat Stetzler. **LAY READERS:** Keith Dierking (Sat 6 pm), Bob Reynolds (Sun 8 am) and Roger Moeller (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Barbara Locke (Sun 8 am) and Dwight & Marlene Miller (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

1 Kings 3:4-15 and Ephesians 1:3-14

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 62 Early – 94 Late – 167 Total – 323

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	No Education Hour This Weekend	
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women’s Small Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Bell Choir
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study