



The \_\_\_\_\_  
First Congregational Church  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Woodstock \_\_\_\_\_

*Declaring, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,  
and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

*December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Christmas Day*



**Congregation:** That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Pastor: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

**Congregation:** Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

❖ Carol #200	<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Matthew 1:18-25	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>Psalm 34:18-22</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Psalm 34:18-22	Pastor
	“Our Immanent God”	
❖ Hymn of Response #207	<i>Good Christian Men, Rejoice</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	John 14:27	Pastor

*The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer.*

Postlude

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~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~  
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

*Prelude: O Hail This Brightest Day of Days (J. S. Bach)*

*Offertory: Immanuel (Card)*

*Postlude: Noel X: Grand Jeu et Duo (Daquin)*

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There will be no Young Adult Fellowship tonight or on Jan. 1

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There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1  
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## **Our Immanent God**

### **How Does Messiah Sing This Song of Praise?**

God Has Drawn Near to Us to Save Us (18).

Jesus the Righteous One, Came as Promised (19-20).

Jesus Was Condemned to Death to Give Us Life (21-22).

**Re-read (sing) with This *Christ-Centered* Understanding.**

**Application—Celebrate Our Life in Christ with Joy!**

CONCLUSION: This Christmas as we celebrate the good news that the God of the Universe has drawn near to us, do you truly know His immanence? Not just do you feel His proximity, but do you know with *the confidence of supernatural faith* that the Lord is near to you in all your brokenness? Do you know that “there is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” and that that includes you? Do we as a congregation understand our nearness to God through Christ in ways that free us to radically love others with the outrageous love Jesus has lavished on us? May the Holy Spirit continue His work in assuring us of our security in Christ so that we may!

## Psalm 34:18-22 ESV

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord delivers him out of them all.  
He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.  
Affliction will slay the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.  
The Lord redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

### What Child Is This?

**1** What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

**2** Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

**3** So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

### God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

**1** God rest you merry, gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray

**Refrain**  
O tidings of comfort & joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort & joy

**2** From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name

**3** Fear not then said the angel  
Let nothing you affright  
This day is born a Savior  
Of a pure virgin bright  
To free all those who trust in Him  
From Satan's pow'r and might

**4** The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind  
And left their flocks a—feeding  
In tempest storm and wind  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
The Son of God to find

### Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

**1** Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing,

**3.**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found,

**2**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy,

**4** He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love,

## **The Celebration of Christmas—December 25-January 6**

The season of Christmas *starts Christmas morning and runs through the Feast of the Epiphany* (January 6<sup>th</sup>) that is the traditional celebration of the wise men coming to worship Christ as King. Whereas Advent's emphasis is *longing for Christ's next coming* and fasting over our sin, traditionally the focus through the twelve days of Christmas and Epiphany is on celebration and feasting since Christ has come.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY Sunday—December 25**

Please **join together with God's people in gathered worship** either in-person or by participating in the live-stream ([www.fccw.net](http://www.fccw.net)).

**READ:** The Christmas story from Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20.

**LINGER:** Psalm 34:18-22. *Read slowly several times.*

**DISCUSS:** Why is Christmas meaningful for you?

**SING:** *What Child Is This?*

**PRAY:** "Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to rescue us from sin and death."

**FEAST:** Enjoy a special meal as a birthday celebration with Jesus!

### **The Second Day of CHRISTMAS Monday—December 26**

**READ:** Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7.

**DISCUSS:** What does Immanuel mean? How has Jesus fulfilled His promise?

**SING:** *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

**PRAY:** Tell Jesus why He is worthy of your worship. Thank Him. Ask Him to guide you in worshipping Him each day.

### **The Third Day of CHRISTMAS Tuesday—December 27**

**READ:** Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Psalm 34:18-22; Matthew 1:18-25.

**DISCUSS:** How can we encourage one another to trust Christ in our daily lives?

**SING:** *Joy to the World*

**PRAY:** "Lord, thank You for allowing Isaiah to help us long for Your return."

The **Fourth** Day of CHRISTMAS  
**Wednesday—December 28**

**READ:** Isaiah 60:1-7; Matthew 2:13-23.

**DISCUSS:** Why did Jesus and His family have to flee to Egypt? How does this mirror the journey of Israel? How does God use tragic things in life?

**SING:** *What Child Is This?*

**PRAY:** “Jesus, thank You for being a refugee so that we could be brought home. Thank You for humbling Yourself as a servant to love us.”

The **Fifth** Day of CHRISTMAS  
**Thursday—December 29**

**READ:** Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Matthew 3:1-17.

**DISCUSS:** What does it mean for the Father to be pleased with Jesus? How does that affect His response to us who are in Christ? Rejoice!

**SING:** *Joy to the World*

**PRAY:** “Lord Christ, You have revealed the glory of God to us. We see Your holiness in Your perfect obedience for us. Please cause Your radiance to shine within us, to change us, enliven us, and to shine to others.

The **Sixth** Day of CHRISTMAS  
**Friday—December 30**

**READ:** Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Matthew 4:1-25.

**DISCUSS:** Why did Jesus come to earth? What was the point of His temptation?

**SING:** *What Child Is This?*

**PRAY:** “Lord, thank You for being faithful where we have failed.”

The **Seventh** Day of CHRISTMAS  
**Saturday—December 31**

**READ:** Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Matthew 5:1-20.

**DISCUSS:** How did Jesus explain the law? How are we to keep it? Why?

**SING:** *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

**PRAY:** “Jesus, thank You for doing what we could not. Help us now to do what You have freed us to do in love. Enable us to walk in Your Spirit.”