

Joy to the World



Rudyard Christian Reformed Church

December 25, 2025

"to us a child is born, to us a son is given"
Isaiah 9:6

Opening Prayer

Waiting and Longing - Isaiah 7:14; 11:1-3

Leader: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and will call him Immanuel.

All: (sing chorus of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Promise Fulfilled - Isaiah 9:2

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has
dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their
joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.

**All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the
government will be on his shoulders. And he will be
called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

(Light Christ Candle)

Leader: Of the greatness of his government and peace there
will be no end. 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. The zeal of
the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

*Song ~ CH 270 Joy to the World

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

Special Music

The Christmas Story – John 1, Luke 2

Reader 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Reader 2: He was with God in the beginning. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

Reader 3: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Reader 1: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Reader 2: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader 3: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register.

Reader 1: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Reader 2: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel", which means "God with us".

Reader 3: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Song ~ CH 281 What Child Is This?

Reader 1: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

Reader 2: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Reader 3: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Reader 1: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Reader 2: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Reader 3: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

*Song ~ CH 284 The Birthday of a King

Meditation

Prayer

*Song ~ CH 249 O Come, All Ye Faithful

We Depart to Serve

*God's Parting Blessing

*Closing Song ~ CH 277 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing