

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE.  
PHILIPPIANS 4:4



RHAPSODY | MAKOTO FUJIMURA | 2018 | MINERAL PIGMENTS,  
GOLD ON POLISHED CANVAS



THE CHURCH OF THE  
INCARNATION

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 3, 2023

# *Welcome To* *The* **CHURCH** *of the* **INCARNATION**

To all who are spiritually weary and desire rest,  
To all who are mourning and long for comfort,  
To all who struggle and desire victory,  
To all who sin and need a Savior,  
To all who are hungry and thirst for righteousness,  
And to whomever will come,  
This church opens her doors,  
Offering welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

# ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

God calls us out of the world and welcomes us into his presence.  
Opening our hearts to him in love, we respond by confessing our  
sins, receiving his forgiveness, and fully devoting our lives to him in  
praise and adoration.

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*Congregational responses are indicated in boldface.*

*Please stand.*

## THE ACCLAMATION

Surely the Lord is coming soon.

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

## O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

*12th century Latin text; 13th century tune. Public domain.*

O come O come Emmanuel\*

And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

O come Desire of nations bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

## PRAYER FOR PURITY

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires  
known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse  
the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of  
your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy Name; through  
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Emmanuel is  
a Hebrew word  
meaning "God with  
us" (Matthew 1:23).

## THE LAW OF GOD°

God spoke these words and said: "I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me."

***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

"You shall not make for yourself any idol."

***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

"You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain."

***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy."

***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

"Honor your father and your mother."

***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

"You shall not murder."

***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

"You shall not commit adultery."

***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

"You shall not steal."

***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

"You shall not covet."

***Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these your laws in our hearts, we beseech you.***

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN\*

• • •

*Please kneel and silently confess your sins against God and your neighbor.*

\*When we confess our sins to God we are not groveling in guilt; we are dealing with our guilt. If we deny our sins, we will never be free from them.

## MASS OF LOVE AND MERCY - KYRIE

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Kyrie eleison Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy

Christe eleison Christe eleison

Christ have mercy

Kyrie eleison Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy

## THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS\*

\*Only God can forgive sins. In announcing God's forgiveness, pastors obey Christ's command to his ministers to pronounce Christ's forgiveness on his behalf (John 20:23).

°Psalm 51:15

. . .

*Please stand.*

## THE PSALM

Lord, open our lips.

***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***<sup>°</sup>

Our King and Savior now draws near:

***O come, let us adore him.***

Psalm 145:10 All your works shall give thanks to you,  
O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!

***11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,***

***12 to make known to the children of man your mighty  
deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.***

***13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and  
your dominion endures throughout all  
generations.***

***14 The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all  
who are bowed down.***

***15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them  
their food in due season.***

***16 You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every  
living thing.***

***17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in  
all his works.***

***18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call  
on him in truth.***

***19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he  
also hears their cry and saves them.***

<sup>20</sup> The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

**<sup>21</sup> My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and  
ever.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall  
be, world without end, Amen.**

Our King and Savior now draws near:  
**O come, let us adore him.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY\*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

\*The collect is a prayer that goes with the scripture readings, summarizing the theme of this particular worship service.

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the  
works of darkness, and put on the armor of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life in which your  
Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;  
that in the last day, when he shall come again in his  
glorious majesty to judge both the living and the  
dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through  
him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Children grades 1–5 are dismissed for Children’s Ministry.

Please be seated.

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

We encounter our risen Lord in Scripture. As a people defined by God’s Word, we respond to God through confession of faith, corporate prayer, and a demonstration of our reconciliation with one another in passing the peace of Christ.

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### 2 KINGS 6:8–23

After the Scripture is read:

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### PHILIPPIANS 4:4–9

After the Scripture is read:

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **MATTHEW 28:16–20**

Before the Scripture is read:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Scripture is read:

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

## **THE SERMON**

Please stand.

### **THE NICENE CREED\***

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

\*The Nicene Creed has been prayed and recited since AD 325. It is the most widely used encapsulation of the essential and unifying beliefs of Christianity.

\*Catholic here means that every local church founded on the gospel is part of the one universal church founded by God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE\*

*The leader will invite us to pray.*

. . .

\*We close by praying  
together for the  
mission of the Church.

***Almighty and everlasting God, who alone works great marvels: Send down upon our clergy and the congregations committed to their charge the life-giving Spirit of your grace, shower them with the continual dew of your blessing, and ignite in them a zealous love of your Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

## THE PEACE\*

\*This ancient tradition is rooted in Luke 24:36-49. In these words we hear the promise that the dark side of life in the world and in us will not prevail. The power of the evil one has been overcome.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
***And also with you.***

Let us greet one another in the name of our Lord.

Greet those around you with some version of these words:  
“The peace of Christ be with you.”

Parents pick up infants & toddlers from upstairs at this time.

*Please be seated.*

\*Psalm 50:14

## THE OFFERING\*

### WONDERFUL MERCIFUL SAVIOR

*Dawn Rogers & Eric Wyse. © 1989 Dayspring Music. CCLI License 11069486.*

Wonderful merciful Savior  
Precious redeemer and friend  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could  
Rescue the souls of men  
Oh you rescue the souls of men

You are the one that we praise  
You are the one we adore  
You give the healing and grace our  
Hearts always hunger for  
Oh our hearts always hunger for

Counselor comforter, keeper  
Spirit we long to embrace  
You offer hope when our hearts have  
Hopelessly lost the way  
Oh we hopelessly lost the way



Almighty infinite Father  
 Faithfully loving your own  
 Here in our weakness you find us  
 Falling before your throne  
 Oh we're falling before your throne

*Please stand.*

## PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

*Words: Thomas Ken, Tune: Old Hundredth. 1674; Public domain.*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
 Praise him all creatures here below  
 Praise him above ye heavenly hosts  
 Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost  
 Amen.

## CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*God welcomes his people to feast at his table. This meal, a means of grace for all who receive by faith, is a rehearsal of the central act of the Christian faith: Christ's death on the cross — his body broken and his blood shed as a sacrifice for our sins.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

...

1,3.Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 2.Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 5 Heav - en and earth are full of your the name of the ry. Lord,  
 9 Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est!

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## THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

...

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died. Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

...

***Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.***

## THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS\*

***We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, who always delights in showing mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.***

## THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who come with faith in Christ and repentance for sin are welcome to share in this feast. If for any reason you would prefer to abstain, cross your arms over your chest, and one of the servers will pray a blessing for you.

Come forward to receive communion row by row. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, take a small cup at the front of the aisle as you go forward. When arriving at the front of the communion line, place your hands in front of you to receive a piece of bread, and consume it. After receiving the bread, proceed to the first server to take a drink from the common cup (please do not dip your bread) or to the second server with your plastic cup to receive a pour of wine. Grape juice is available at the far right station and is available poured only.

## **BUILD MY LIFE**

*Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kable, Pat Barrett, Matt Redman. © SaidAndDone Music. CCLI License 11069486.*

Worthy of every song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You

Jesus the name above every other name  
Jesus the only one who could ever save  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for you  
We live for you

Holy there is no one like you  
There is none beside you open up my eyes in wonder  
And show me who you are and fill me  
With your heart and lead me  
In your love to those around me

I will build my life upon your love  
It is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in you alone  
And I will not be shaken

## **A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD**

*Frederick Hedge & Martin Luther. Public Domain. CCLI License 11069486.*

A mighty fortress is our God a bulwark never failing  
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe  
His craft and power are great  
And armed with cruel hate  
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide  
Our striving would be losing  
Were not the right man on our side  
The man of God's own choosing  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is he  
Lord Sabaoth\* his name, from age to age the same  
And he must win the battle

\*The name *Sabaoth* comes from Hebrew for "that which goes forth" and for "armies" or "hosts." It declares God's reign over heaven and earth and over all armies, earthly and spiritual.

And though this world with devils filled  
Should threaten to undo us  
We will not fear for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us

The prince of darkness grim we tremble not for him  
His rage we can endure for lo his doom is sure  
One little word shall fell him

That word above all earthly powers  
No thanks to them abideth  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Through him who with us sideth  
Let goods and kindred go this mortal life also  
The body they may kill God's truth abideth still  
His kingdom is forever

### **ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS I STAND**

*Stennett and Miner; Christopher Miner Music*

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand  
And cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land  
Where my possessions lie

All o'er those wide extended plains  
Shines one eternal day  
There God the Son forever reigns  
And scatters night away

I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound for the promised land  
(repeat)

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath  
Can reach that healthful shore  
Sickness sorrow pain and death  
Are felt and feared no more

When shall I reach that happy place  
And be forever blessed?  
When shall I see my Father's face  
And in his bosom rest?

### **THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***Heavenly Father,***

***We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries***

*that we are living members of the body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you  
have given us to do, to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Announcements can be found on page 12.*

## THE BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING

*Please stand.*

All our problems:

***We send to the cross of Christ!***

All our difficulties:

***We send to the cross of Christ!***

All the devil's works:

***We send to the cross of Christ!***

All our hopes:

***We set on the risen Christ!***

...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***



Join us in the lobby after the service for Mr. J's bagels and Broad Porch coffee!

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Welcome Lunch - Dec 10

Are you new to Incarnation? Join us upstairs for a Welcome Lunch after worship at 12:15pm on December 10. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our church, ask questions, and meet other newcomers.

## Vocational Lunch - Dec 17 - Education Field

We will host our next professional luncheon at 12:15pm December 17 for professors, administrators, school counselors, teachers, teacher's aide and others in this field. This will be a time for encouragement and to hear from you about your profession's needs, struggles, and victories in working for the flourishing of our city and God's kingdom. If you would like to attend please email Laura\* by December 13.

## Volunteers still needed for 2024

If you haven't filled out your service assignment form, here is a list of teams that still need more members for next year. You can still sign up for other things too, of course.

- Lay Eucharist Ministers (LEM): 5 men + 5 women
- Children ministry: 2 (adult) Toddler volunteers
- Children ministry: 1 3rd-5th Grade teacher
- Coffee & Bagel setup team: 6



**VOLUNTEER  
SIGNUP**

## Rector's Discretionary Fund Offering - Dec 24 & 31

On Christmas Eve at both services and on December 31 (5th Sunday) we will take an offering for the RDF. This fund is used solely to help people in our church and community with physical and financial needs.

## Baptism - Jan 7

We will celebrate baptisms on January 7 (The Baptism of our Lord Sunday). If you are considering baptism for yourself or your child, email Beth.\*

*\* Staff email addresses can be found on the back cover of the worship guide.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Dec 10** Welcome Lunch

**Jan 7** Baptisms

**Jan 28** Adult Sunday School classes begin

**Feb 21** Late winter Essentials course begins



**COTI  
CALENDAR**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Nursery:** Staffed by trained and screened volunteers. Also open for parents/caretakers and infants, anytime during the service for fussy babies. Located upstairs, midway down the hall to your left. Available throughout the service. Pickup is at the Peace.

**Toddler Room:** For steady walkers up to 3 years old. Located upstairs; last classroom on the right. Check-in located outside the classroom. You can bring your child prior to the service. Pickup is at the Peace.

**Preschool:** 3–6 year olds. Upstairs; check-in located outside the classroom before the service begins. Pickup is at the Peace.

**Elementary:** 1st–5th grade. After the Collect, children will be dismissed to their class upstairs. Prior to the Lord's Supper, they will return to the service. 3rd–5th graders go to small multipurpose room (204).

## *Christmas Week* AT *The* CHURCH *of the* INCARNATION

As we joyfully celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior  
and receive him anew in our hearts, our homes, and our church,  
our plans for worship are as follows:

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve  
Lessons & Carols followed by cocoa & cookies

10:00 am L&C with Communion - Nursery & toddler care

5:00 pm - L&C only - no child care

Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

One service at 10:00 am - Nursery & toddler care



Office hours: 9 to 5, Monday through Friday  
Ring bell at Federal Street entrance

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