

"PRAISE THE LORD! FOR IT IS A GOOD THING  
TO SING PRAISES UNTO OUR GOD."  
PSALM 147:1A



INCIPIT TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, BOOK OF KELLS | CA. 800 |



THE CHURCH OF THE  
INCARNATION

THE 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 28, 2025

# *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.

## ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

*Text: James Montgomery; Music Henry Smart; Public Domain*

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds in the field abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant Light

Sages leave your contemplations  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great Desire of nations  
Ye have seen his natal star

All creation join in praising  
God the Father Spirit Son  
Evermore your voices raising  
To th' eternal Three in One

\*The acclamation  
joyfully acknowledges  
God's presence and  
reign, announcing  
that we gather at his  
invitation and under  
his authority.

\*This ancient prayer  
asks the Holy Spirit  
to cleanse our hearts  
so we may love God  
and magnify his Name  
with grace only he  
provides.

## THE ACCLAMATION\*

For unto us a child is born.  
**Unto us a son is given.**

## THE COLLECT 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.***

## THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

. . .

\*In confession we  
tell the truth about  
ourselves because  
God has told us the  
truth about his mercy.  
Absolution proclaims  
Scripture's promise  
of full forgiveness in  
Christ.

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION\*

On the day of our Lord's birth, the angel said to the shepherds: 'Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.' (Luke 2:10–11) Trusting in the good news of Christ our Savior, draw near with faith, and confess your sins in silence to almighty God.

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

***Most merciful God,  
we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.***

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand.*

\*Added in the English Reformation, these sentences of Scripture assure repentant sinners of Christ's mercy and remind us that our confidence rests in his finished work alone.

## THE COMFORTABLE WORDS\*

• • •

### Joy To The World

*George Handel, Lowell Mason, and Isaac Watts; Public Domain*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

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

No more let sin 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

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 Collect gathers the themes of the readings and the date in the Church calendar into one petition, asking God to accomplish in us what Scripture promises.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY\*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## A COLLECT FOR CHILDREN

***Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed our congregation with the joy and care of children: Give us courage, patience, and wisdom, as we bring them up in the faith, that they may never know a day apart from your love and care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

*Please be seated.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

*When Scripture is read, Christ addresses his people. Our posture shows that God's Word governs the Church. We stand for the Gospel reading because Jesus is the center and substance of the scriptures.*

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### **ISAIAH 61:10-62:5**

*After the Scripture is read:*

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

### **PSALM 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await his gracious favor.

***<sup>13</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion;***

<sup>14</sup>For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you.

***<sup>15</sup>He has established peace on your borders; he satisfies you with the finest wheat.***

<sup>16</sup>He sends out his command to the earth, and his word runs very swiftly.

***<sup>17</sup>He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.***

<sup>18</sup>He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; who can stand against his cold?

***<sup>19</sup>He sends forth his word and melts them; he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.***

<sup>20</sup>He declares his word to Jacob,

***his statutes and his judgments to Israel.***

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.***

## **GALATIANS 3:23-4:7**

*After the Scripture is read:*

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

*Please stand.*

## **JOHN 1:1-18**

*Before the Scripture is read:*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
St. John.

***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 Creed unites  
us with the Church  
across time, faithfully  
summarizing Scripture  
and guarding the  
gospel as we confess  
one Lord, one faith,  
one hope.

## **THE NICENE CREED\***

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

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten 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,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit  
and 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped  
and glorified,  
who 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*The leader will invite us to pray.*

*At the end of each petition:*

*Lord in your mercy:*

**Hear our prayer.**

. . .

**O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples  
of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach  
peace to those who are far off and to those who are  
near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after  
you and find you; bring the nations into your fold;  
pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the  
coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**



\*Sharing peace  
declares Christ's  
finished reconciliation.  
Before Communion,  
we express gospel  
unity: those at peace  
with God live at peace  
with one another.

## THE PEACE\*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And with your spirit.**

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 and toddlers from upstairs at this time.*

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*We give because  
God first gave to  
us. Offering our  
gifts—and ourselves—  
expresses gratitude  
and acknowledges  
that our lives belong  
wholly to God.

## THE OFFERTORY\*

**Proverbs 3:9** Honor the Lord with your wealth and with  
the firstfruits of all your produce.

### IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

*Words, Edmund H. Sears & Richard S. Willis, Public Domain.*

It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth good will to men  
From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing

Still thro' the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load  
Whose forms are bending low  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow  
Look now for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on  
By prophet bards foretold  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing

*Please stand.*

### **BLESS THIS OFFERING, O LORD**

*Words and Music: Unknown.*

Bless this offering O Lord  
And let it multiply within your hands  
Feed the hungry with the Bread of Life  
And let us see your mercies  
A taste of things in store  
We offer up this sacrifice to you O Lord

## **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.*

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\*Sursum Corda means "Lift up your hearts." By the Spirit we celebrate and remember the once-for-all offering Christ our ascended high priest offers to the Father on our behalf.

### **SURSUM CORDA\***

The Lord be with you.

***And with your spirit.***

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.***

. . .

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory***

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord***

***Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest***

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory***

\*Consecration is when God uses ordinary means—bread and wine—to communicate extraordinary grace. We ask the Spirit to set apart these gifts, not by altering their substance, but by using them to unite us to Christ in faith.

## **THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION\***

. . .

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.***

. . .

## **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.***

\*The Fraction is the breaking of the consecrated bread, recalling Christ's body broken for us. It is a visible sign that the benefits of his finished work are freely given to believers through faith.

## **THE FRACTION\***

Alleluia. Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed, once and for all upon the Cross.

***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

## **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. Individually wrapped gluten free crackers are available on a separate paten to avoid cross contamination. Please indicate your desire for this option to the server.

## **HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

*Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn, and William H. Cummings; Public domain*

Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th' angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heaven adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of the virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail th' incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus our Immanuel  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
Light and life to all he brings  
Risen with healing in his wings  
Mild he lays his glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

## WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

*Traditional English Carol; 16th Century English melody; Public Domain*

What Child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is  
sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shep-  
herds 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

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

So bring him incense gold and myrrh come peasant  
king to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings let loving hearts  
enthroned him  
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born the Babe the Son of Mary

## GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*African-American Spiritual; Public Domain.*

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every-  
where  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

\*Fed by Christ  
in Word and  
Sacrament, we ask  
God to send us out  
as witnesses. Grace  
always leads to  
mission.

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER\*

Let us pray.

**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.**

\*The final blessing  
is God's promise  
spoken over his  
people. We go  
out under his  
protection and with  
his peace.

## THE BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL\*

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!**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love  
of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the  
blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the  
Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of  
the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Connect with us!

If you're new, scan the QR code. We'd love to get to know you!



CONNECT

## Welcome Lunch

Our next welcome lunch will be January 18. No RSVP needed, please join us to learn more about our church and hear from a pastor.

## Baptism

The next baptism service will be January 11. If you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child, contact the office by January 1.



CELEBRATE  
RECOVERY  
SIGN UP

## Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery exists to help people find freedom in Christ from persistent "hurts, habits, and hang-ups." Our local chapter is hosted at Church of the Nazarene and meets every Monday from 6-8 PM. Dinner and childcare are provided! If you are interested, the next course begins on January 5.

## Volunteer January-June 2026

Thanks to all who have signed up for the first half of 2026. If you have not yet signed up, scan the QR code to learn more!



VOLUNTEER  
FORM

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Dec 29-Jan 2** Office Closed

TITHES & OFFERINGS		
	December	YTD
Received	\$101,497	\$ 955,950
Budgeted	\$ 83,444	\$ 1,001,328
Variance	\$ 18,053	\$ (45,378)
RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND		
Balance Jan 2025		\$ 50,865
Received		\$ 59,886
Assistance Provided		\$ (71,879)
Balance 2025		\$ 38,872

\*Receipts needed by December 31, 2025 to meet our full year budget.

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



Office hours: 10 to 4, Monday through Thursday  
Ring bell at Federal Street entrance

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