



TO BE TRULY LOVED,
FOR WHO YOU ARE,
IS ONE OF THE MOST
AMAZING AND
WONDERFUL
FEELINGS A PERSON
CAN EXPERIENCE.

The BEST
Christmas
EVER

Love
The Best Christmas Ever

December 22, 2024
Christmas Sunday

Pastor Kerry Foote
Cell: (305) 407-7040
pastor.foote@outlook.com
Church address: 9243 Parkhill Road
Tallahassee FL 32317
Church Phone: (850) 219-9361
Web site: chairesmethodist.church

PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN
WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS
WELCOMING OF GUESTS
PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor
Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Liturgist

Liturgist: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).

Congregation: God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

Liturgist: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

Congregation: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

CHORAL RESPONSE

We Are Waiting

Choir

*HYMN/SONG OF PRAISE

The First Noel/Above All

See screen

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Nativity Affirmation

Liturgist

I believe in the Living God who is directly involved in the affairs of the world.

I believe that God chooses the meek and the poor to shame the proud and the rich.

I believe in the incarnate Word, leaping in a woman's womb, cradled in poverty.

I believe in Jesus, true son of Mary, true Son of God, who came among us in weakness, that we might come to know the profound strength available to common people who turn to God in trust and with love.

Yes, my friends, this I truly believe.

*GLORIA PATRI

(Inspired by *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

See screen

**Please stand as you are able*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 7:10-16 (NKJV)

Liturgist

Moreover, the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!" ¹³ Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? ¹⁴ "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. ¹⁵ "Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ "For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings.

Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Thank you, Father, for the greatest gift of all. Thank you for Jesus, who loved us so much that he paid the price for our sin to give us the gift of eternal life. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: John 3:16-17

Liturgist

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

MISSION MOMENT

PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Pastor

If you have a prayer need or praise that you would like to share with the congregation, please fill out a card and pass it toward the center aisle of the congregation as we are singing the Hymn of Preparation. The pastor will collect the cards during the song and pray over the cards at the chancel rail.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH #204

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor

Title: The Best Christmas Ever

Theme: Love

Purpose: God shared His unconditional love with humanity through His son Jesus. And Jesus asks us to love one another as He has loved.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES (Celebrating Our Gifts)
OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kingdom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings* See screen

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v.1-4) UMH #211

*COMMISSION / BENEDICTION Pastor

(Based on John 3: 16-17)

Just as God's Word was sent into the world to heal and redeem, so God sends you into the world this day to be light and love, healing and hope. Go now to be light for the world! And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you always...and all of God's children said...Amen

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Love and Fellowship* See screen

POSTLUDE

