

Music Today

Cross Road

AS WE GATHER

Today we consider Jesse's tree, that is, his family tree. His son David kept faithful to God, but succeeding generations wandered away, until only a stump remained. From that stump, a Branch would come: our Lord Jesus, who fulfills all ancient promises. Each week, we hear the story of several ancestors of Jesus - Each story showing God's plan of salvation and how He guided humanity to prepare for His coming. The tradition of the Jesse Tree dates back to the Middle Ages, and derives its name from Isaiah 11:1, "*Then a shoot will spring from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.*" Jesse is the father of King David, and from the family line of David, our Savior came. Today, come and see YOUR place in God's family tree!

Gathering Song On Christmas Night

On Christmas night true Christians sing
To hear the news angels bring
On Christmas night true Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
News of great joy and of great mirth
Tidings of our dear Savior's birth.

The King of Kings to us is giv'n
The Lord of earth and King of Heav'n
The King of Kings to us is giv'n
The Lord of earth and King of Heav'n
Angels and men with joy may sing
Of blest Jesus their new born King.

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Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song The First Noel (vv 1,2,3)

Noel, Noel. The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
 Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that great star
Three Wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

Confession and Forgiveness (Psalm 80:19; Isaiah 61:1)

Pastor: As God's people today, we confess our brokenness and ask to be restored into a right

relationship into our Lord's family.

People: **Heavenly Father, we confess that we are bound to sin and cannot free ourselves. Like Adam in the beginning, we have "eaten forbidden fruit" in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have not produced spiritual fruit in living the new life of faith You have won for us. We have acted as if we are not part of your family. For the sake of Jesus' sacrifice on the tree of the cross, grant us Your mercy.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O almighty God, we come before you today, remembering your ancient words: *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse. And from His roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

Long before Jesus was born you gave life to a man named Jesse, whose son came Your promised King, David. And from David, you fulfilled your promise of a Savior, your Son Jesus Christ. Dear God, as members of your family today, we thank you that you have a plan for each of us in these last days. Help us to be patient as we wait for Jesus again.

People: **Amen.**

Reader

Dyann Harp

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 12:1-3

(The Archangel Michael Calls for all to Shine)

¹"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2: 1-15

(Shine Like Stars in the Sky.)

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12

(The Star of Bethlehem Leads the Magi)

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message / Kid's Church

Song of the Day The First Noel (vv 3,4,5)

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both Pause and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
 Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those Wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **Refrain**

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught
And with his blood mankind has bought. **Refrain**

Sermon

The Jesse Tree: The Star of Bethlehem

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed – APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of God's People

Pastor: Lord God, as we celebrate our Savior's birth we thank and praise you for coming into the world of our dark sin. But Lord, we continue to ask that you may come into our world once more.

**People: O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

Pastor: Father, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us, sending Your Son into our world wrapped in our flesh as a tiny child to forgive our sins. Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

**People: Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

Pastor: Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us. You gave up heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin. Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

**People: Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.**

Pastor: Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us, gathering us together through the waters of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received in faith, and kept unto life eternal.

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns are added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Offering Little Drummer Boy

Come, they told me pa rum pa pum pum
A newborn King to see pa rum pa pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring pa rum pa pum pum
To lay before the King pa rum pa pum pum
Rum pa pum pum, rum pa pum pum
So to honor Him pa rum pa pum pum

When we come.

Little Baby, pa rum pa pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pa pum pum
I have no gift to bring pa rum pa pum pum
That's fit to give our King pa rum pa pum pum
Rum pa pum pum, rum pa pum pum
Shall I play for You pa rum pa pum pum
On my drum?

Mary nodded, pa rum pa pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time pa rum pa pum pum
I played my drum for Him pa rum pa pum pum
I played my best for Him pa rum pa pum pum
Rum pa pum pum, rum pa pum pum
Then He smiled at me pa rum pa pum pum
Me and my drum.

Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

People: **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

The Words of Our Lord [*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
[*1 Cor. 11:26*]

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** [*Revelation 22:20*]

Lord's Prayer [*Matthew 6:9–13*]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

Distribution

What Child Is This

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!

Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, 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 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!

Christmas Hallelujah

¹ I've heard about this baby boy Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift With every breath I'm singing
Halle - lujah hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu - u - jah.

² A couple came to Bethlehem Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay God's only Son was born, oh Halle - lujah
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu - u - jah.

³ The shepherds left their flocks by night To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You It was just as the angels said
You'll find Him in a manger bed Emmanuel, our Savior, Halle - lujah
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu - u - jah.

⁴ A star shown bright up in the east To Bethlehem, the wise men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense & gold & myrrh They came to You and cried out, "Hallelujah"
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu - u - jah.

⁵ I know You came to rescue me This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross, too Still every breath You drew was Halle - lujah
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu - u - jah.
hallelujah, hallelujah, halle - lujah, halle lu - u - jah.

Christmas Lullaby (Instrumental)

Announcements

Blessing [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
 The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Sending Song God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings Medley

God rest ye 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
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly 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
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy O-oh

Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading,
Still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring, to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worship Him, God on High.

Myrrh is mine; it's bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in a stone-cold tomb. O-oh

Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading,
Still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light.