

# CELEBRATING THE PROMISES OF GOD

December 24, 2024 ... 8:00 PM



**GLORIFY HIM ...**

**GROW IN HIM ...**

**GO WITH HIS GOSPEL**

**We are St. Mark's Church & School**

A WELST<sup>†</sup>NorCal Ministry ... Other Locations

Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

# Carols Around The Fire 2024

## A Christmas Celebration

### Greeting & Invocation

Pastor: But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. (*Galatians 4*)

**Assembly:** (*speak*) **Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room And heaven and nature sing.**

P: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (*1 John 4*)

**A: No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found.**

P: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (*John 3*)

**A: He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love.**

P: We worship this Christmas Eve in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen. Let us worship Him!**

(*Sing*) **Peace Came to Earth ... 707 CWS**

**Peace came to earth at last that chosen night  
When angels clove the sky with song and light  
And God embodied love and sheathed his might—  
Who could but gasp: Immanuel! Who could but sing: Immanuel!**

**And who could be the same for having held  
The infant in their arms and later felt  
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled—  
Who could but sigh: Immanuel! Who could but shout: Immanuel!**

**You show the Father none has ever seen,  
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,  
In bread and wine you visit us again—  
Who could but see: Immanuel! Who could but thrill: Immanuel!**

**How else could I have known you, O my God!  
How else could I have loved you, O my God!  
How else could I embrace you, O my God!  
Who could but pray: Immanuel! Who could but praise: Immanuel!**

P: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! <sup>34</sup>“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” <sup>35</sup>“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” <sup>36</sup>For from him and through him and for him are all things. (*Romans 11*)

**A: To him be the glory forever! Amen.**

*(Sing)* **Speak, O Lord ... 735 CWS**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,  
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, as your Church is built  
And you fill the earth with your glory.**

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. 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. 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. (*Isaiah 9*)

*(Sing)* **Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful ... 55 CW**

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
Oh, come, ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him Born the King of angels.  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

*Duet* God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,  
Only begotten Son of God the Father.  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

*(Sing)* **Great Is Thy Faithfulness ... 602 CWN**

*(Vocalist)*      *Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.*

*(All) (Refrain)*    ***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

*(Vocalist)*      *Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain - All*

*(All)*              ***Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain***

***The Christmas Account ... from Luke 2***

P: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

***(Ladies speak) ...*** <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> 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.

***(Men speak) ...*** <sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

***(All speak) ...*** <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

**PEACE ... JOY ... HOPE**

*(Sing)* **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ... 61 CW**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all you nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

*Ladies* ***Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,  
Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

**Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

***The Christmas Account ... from Luke 2 cont***

P: <sup>15</sup> 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."  
<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

*(Sing)* **Gentle Mary Laid Her Child ... 56 CW**

*Men* ***Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place – Can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his favor.***

**(All)** Angels sang about his birth; Wise men sought and found him.  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, Glory all around them.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing.  
All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ringing.

**(Sing)** O Little Town of Bethlehem ... 65 CW

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

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;  
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

**(Sing)** What Child Is This ... 67 CW

*Ladies* 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!

**(All)** Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The cross he'll bear 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!

**(Sing)** Go, Tell It on the Mountain ... 57 CW

*(Refrain)* Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
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. ... *refrain*

*Solo* The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. ... *all on refrain*

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

***The Christmas Account ... from Luke 2 cont***

***(All speak) ...* <sup>20</sup> **The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.****

***(Sing) Angels We Have Heard on High ... 63 CW***

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
*Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo.***

***Duet* Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?**

***All* *Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo.***

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
*Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo.***

***God's Love To You & Through You ... from 1 John 4***

**P: Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.**

**A: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

**P: Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.**

***(Sing) To God Be the Glory ... 399 CW***

**To God be the glory; great things he has done!  
He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,  
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!  
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son  
And give him the glory – great things he has done!**

*(Sing)* **God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen ... 356 CWN**

**God rest you 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.**

*(Refrain)* ***O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.***

**From God our heav'nly Father a blessèd angel came  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.** *Refrain*

**"Fear not," then said the angel, "let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior, the true and radiant light,  
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."** *Refrain*

**Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
and in true love and fellowship each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas is filled with heav'nly grace.** *Refrain*

*(Sing)* **Joy to the World ... 62 CW**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**No more let sins 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.**

P: Almighty God, we are thankful that you fulfilled your promise and sent us a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. He became our brother so that through him we might become your children. We are indeed rich, for we have peace with you and access to your throne in every need. Dear Savior, give us a simple, childlike faith that sees your glory even in your lowliness. Help us all to rejoice in your birth. May the truth, love, and redemption that you have brought dwell in our hearts and lives. Help us share the good news of great joy we have in you. As you have shown us your glory on this holy evening, so one day bring us into your glory in heaven, where we will take our places among the saints and angels. There we will forever praise and glorify you for the grace and mercy you have shown to us.

**A: In your name, O Jesus, we pray. Amen.**



*(Sing) from ... By Faith ... 868 CWN (see back page, music accom)*

P: May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to Himself. May the power of the Lord Jesus make us strong to do His will. May the peace of the Lord Jesus fill our lives.

**A: Amen.**

*(Sing) from ... To God Be the Glory ... 399 CW*

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!  
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son  
And give him the glory – great things he has done!**

*Merry Christmas!  
God's peace to you through Jesus.*



*The Advent Candles ... The first candle (blue) is the prophecy candle (candle of hope). The second candle (blue) is the Bethlehem candle (candle of preparation). The third candle (pink) is the Shepherd candle (candle of joy). The fourth candle (blue) is the Angel candle (candle of love). The fifth candle (white) is the Christ candle.*



# St. Mark's

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

A WELS†NorCal **Ministry** ... Other Locations  
Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn,  
Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

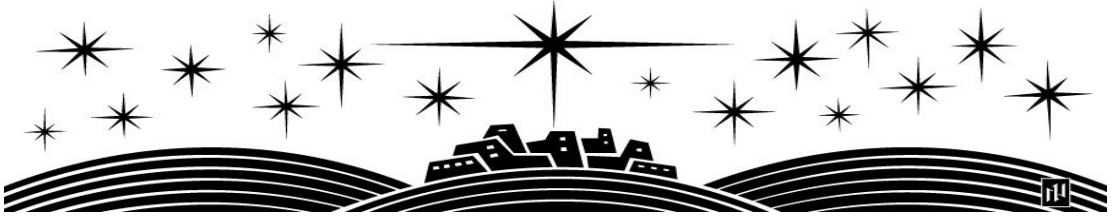
7869 Kingswood Drive \* Citrus Heights, California 95610  
Phone: (916) 961-7891 Fax: (916) 961-5034

Sunday Services at 8:00 am (Live streamed) & 10:45 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School at 9:15, starts in the Chapel  
Sunday Bible Discussion 9:30-10:20 (Live streamed)

*Christmas Day at 9:30 am*

*To connect to our website and the auto giving option:*





*Let us all with gladsome voice  
Praise the God of heaven,  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
His own Son has given.*

*To this vale of tears he comes,  
Here to serve in sadness,  
That with him in heav'n's fair homes  
We may reign in gladness.*

*We are rich, for he was poor;  
Is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore  
Here on earth and yonder.*

*O Lord Christ, our Savior dear,  
Bless us and be near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year.  
Amen, Jesus, hear us!*

*Gloria  
in excelsis  
Deo*

## 868 By Faith



1 By faith we see the hand of God  
 2 By faith our fa - thers roamed the earth  
 3 By faith the proph - ets saw a day



in the light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign,  
 with the pow'r of his prom - ise in their hearts,  
 when the longed - for Mes - si - ah would ap - pear



in the lives of those who prove his faith - ful - ness,  
 of a ho - ly cit - y built by God's own hand,  
 with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death



who walk by faith and not by sight. v. 2  
 a place where peace and jus - tice reign. *Refrain*  
 and rise tri - um - phant from the grave. v. 4



*Refrain*  
 We will stand as chil - dren of the prom - ise; we will fix our



eyes on him, our soul's re - ward. Till the race is fin - ished and the



work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

4 By faith the church was called to go in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost  
 to deliver captives and to preach good news in ev'ry corner of the earth. (Refrain)

5 By faith this mountain shall be moved and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,  
 for we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon his name. (Refrain)