

***From Everlasting to Everlasting:  
The Story of the Christmas Wreath***  
*Advent III – Midweek Service*  
*December 18, 2013*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN #384 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”**

Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav’n adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev’ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory Evermore and evermore. Amen.

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy  
Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**PRAYER**

**PROLOGUE**

**ANTHEM**                    *“O Come, Little Children”*                    5K-Grade 3

+ + **Part One – The Advent Wreath** + +

**ANTHEM**                    *“We Light the Advent Candles”*                    Grades 1-3

**HYMN #370**                    **“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!

**ANTHEM**                    *“In a Little Stable”*                    4K-5K

+ + **Part Two – The Wreath of Thorns** + +

**DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE**

Pastor Bender

**ADVENT OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, please **sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

**PRAYERS**

*After each prayer petition:*

Pastor: Lord in your mercy:

**People: hear our prayer.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers:*

Pastor: . . . one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN #361**                    **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**                    Stanzas 1 & 4

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;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

+ + **Part Three – The Christmas Wreath** + +

**ANTHEM** “Come to Us” 5K-Grade 3

**ANTHEM** “Away in a Manger and O Jesus So Sweet” 4K-Grade 3

**BLESSING**

**People: Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN #525 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin’s Son, The God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:  
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,  
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight.  
But downward bend their wond’ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o’er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav’n, Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n The wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

Worship Leader

Acolyte

Pianist

4K – Grade 3 Teachers

Pastor Harold Bender

Nate Gottschalk, Ana Gonzalez-Clark

Sue Graf

Ellen Van Dyke, Jo Shemanske  
Sue Graf, Barb Heimsoth, Jane Jahnke

*Please enjoy the bookmark the children made for you reminding you of the "eternal symbols" in today's service. May God bless and keep you as you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.*

## *Join us as we worship our New Born King!*

*Christmas Eve ~ December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00, 6:00 & 11:00pm*

*Christmas Morning ~ December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am*

*New Years Eve Worship ~ December 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm*

### *Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

*Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, the Light that the darkness of sin and death cannot destroy! What a joy it is to celebrate the birth of the Light! What a joy to hold a burning candle in your hand, reminding you that Jesus came for you! The 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services will be candlelight services. This year we will have real candles at our services; however, children 10 and under will need to hold a candle with their parents for safety and wax issues. Come and rejoice in the birth of the Light of God’s Love and Life found in Jesus.*

