

December 17, 2023

Worship is the fuel and goal of missions. Missions exists because worship does not. . . . Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. You can't commend what you don't cherish. Missionaries will never call out, "Let the nations be glad!" who cannot say from the heart, "I rejoice in the Lord. . . . I will be glad and exult in thee, I will sing praise to thy name, O Most High" (Ps 104:34, 9:2). Missions begins and ends in worship.

– John Piper

Christ, Our Joy

Scripture for Meditation

Revelation 5:1–5

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

English Standard Version. © 2001 by Crossway Bibles. Used by permission.



Hymn of Joy

Joy to the World

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 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.

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Hymn of Promise

Child In the Manger

Child in the manger, Infant of Mary,
Outcast and Stranger, Lord of all,
Child Who inherits all our transgressions,
All our demerits on Him fall.

Once the most holy Child of salvation
Gently and lowly lived below.
Now as our glorious mighty Redeemer,
See Him victorious o'er each foe.

Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder;
Angels behold Him on His throne.
Worthy our Savior of all our praises;
Happy forever are His own.

Mary M. Macdonald, 1789-1872

Prayer of Blessing

Responsive Reading

Romans 15:8–13

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

**“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”**

And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

And again,

**“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”**

And again Isaiah says,

**“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Hymn of Redemption

See Amid the Winter's Snow

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

Refrain:

*Hail that ever blessèd morn,
Hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the lofty skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim.

As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing “Peace on earth”
Told us of the Savior’s birth.

Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this.

Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

Prayer of Corporate Confession

Silence for Personal Confession

Take a moment for self-reflection, and talk with God quietly about your sin and your need for a Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

Acts 13:22b, 23

“I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.” Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Pardon

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

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 power when we were gone astray.

Refrain:

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.

Traditional English

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and

ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe one holy catholic* and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*universal

"The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325), and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon (451). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ" (Trinity Hymnal, 846).

Dismissal for Children

During this next song, children ages 3 – K5 may be dismissed for children's classes downstairs.

Hymn of Rejoicing

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow; and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!

Sunday Service Times

9:15 am Corporate Prayer Service

10:30 am Corporate Worship Service

*A nursery is available for all services. Sunday sermons are available on our website or at ebcupstate.sermonaudio.com

Emmanuel Bible Church is a community of believers committed to glorifying God by applying the Gospel to every area of life and to making disciples who will love God with all their hearts and their neighbors as themselves.

We are thrilled to be a part of what God is doing in the Upstate. Few things are as exciting as seeing lives and relationships changed through the clear teaching of God's Word. After all, we are made expressly to be in a relationship with Him and to recognize Jesus as our Lord and Savior. At Emmanuel we strive to bring God glory through singing and praying together, hearing His Word preached, loving Him, and loving one another.

We would be delighted to have an opportunity to meet you. We are here to help and encourage you through the teaching of God's Word and through biblical fellowship.

—*Brad Baugham, teaching pastor*

Ministers

The congregation at large

Pastors

Jonathan Bastoni
Brad Baugham
Will Coen
Jared Garcia
Rhett Gieck
David Schwingle

Deacons

Duel Deason, Facilities
Norman Bunn, Facilities

Minister of Worship

Brian Pinner

*Administrative Assistant &
Children's Ministries*

Margaret Bastoni

Nursery Director

Janine Gieck

*Welcome & Greeting
Coordinator*

Sherry Ferguson