

Christmas Day - December 25 at 10:00 AM

Welcome

*Song: Joy to the World*

Call to Worship:

Like eager children waiting for dawn,  
waking sleeping parents with shouts of joy,  
and tearing at the wrapping to get to the gift,  
let our celebrations begin!

**May this Christmas morning  
help us say “Alleluia”  
because You are our hope.**

Jesus Christ, come to us,  
fill our hearts with joy in knowing  
this deeper truth that life contains,  
that because You come, all will be well.

**Let us give witness to you;  
not to successful lives, to perfect health,  
faultless families, or new possessions.**

And as we gather this joyful morning,  
let our Alleluias rise from willing lips,  
from lives opened to Your gift,  
and from hearts filled with Your love.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
and Amen!**

*Song: Silent Night*

God's Greeting and Our Greeting to Each Other:

*Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Advent Candle Lighting:

This Christmas Day we recall the Advent journey we've been on with Abraham, Jacob, Naomi and Ruth, David and Mary—a journey from stranger to friend, from despair to hope, from exclusion to inclusion, from stranger God to strangely present, from fear to welcome! Today we see the Christ-Child, our God in the flesh—Emmanuel. Yet John tells us he came as a stranger into a world who did not recognize him, did not receive him. He lived among us yet often remained the Stranger. Today may we encounter this Stranger God in Jesus, the one who will show us who God is and who we are.

The Christ candle reminds us  
That God really did show up,  
Not for a brief time but for a lifetime;  
Not in disguise but fully Emmanuel,  
God with us.

Today we light the Christ Candle. (*light the centre white Christ candle.*)

**PRAYER:**

**Long-expected Jesus,  
You are not what we expected.  
You are so much more than we can ever understand.  
Help us this day  
to be the community of hope, peace, joy and hope  
we were meant to be. Amen.**

*Song: What Child Is This*

Christmas Reading:

Heavenly Father, you live among us! You show up in unexpected places! You use the ordinary to bring about your redemptive plan. You make that which is impossible, possible as you did for Abraham's wife, Sarah. You allow us to wrestle with our deepest thoughts! You used Naomi, a fragile soul wrought with bitterness, to further your kingdom. You used David, a man after God's own heart, whose honesty and transparency allows us and gives us the permission to be honest with you in the matters of our own heart. We thank you for being a God who shows up to people who wrestle, doubt and who cry out to you. Today Father, may we listen for the sandaled footsteps of our Lord and Saviour as we journey through life.

***We thank you for choosing people like us to further your kingdom.  
During this Christmas season we celebrate with joy and expectation.  
We celebrate God the stranger, Immanuel, God is with us.***

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14  
Sermon God the Stranger

Time of Prayer

Time of Praise:

*Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Song: Angels We Have Heard on High*

Parting Blessing

*Song: Ere zij God*

Offerings are for the Blackfalds Foodbank Lunchbox Program