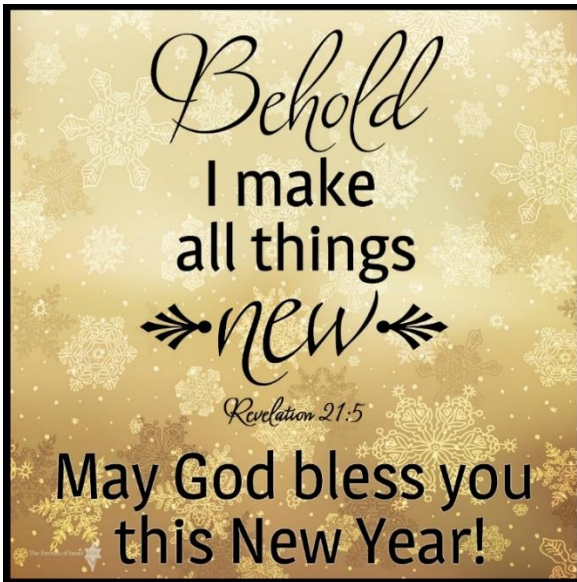


Announcements

Sun. Dec. 26 th	Sunday School Worship Service <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> <i>What Can You Give Jesus This Christmas?</i> Matthew 2:1-12	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Dec. 29 th	Wednesday Bible Study	3:00 p.m.
Sun. Jan. 2 nd	Sunday School Worship Service	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.



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The Worship of God – December 26, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

COMMUNION WITH GOD

Meditation and Silent Prayer

PreludeMichael Cowan and Michell Eguez
Songs of the Faith

Welcome, Announcements, and ConcernsDr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAISE AND PRAYER

Call to Worship.....Hymn 95
Go Tell It on the Mountain by John W. Work, Jr.

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold thro'-out the heavens
There shone a holy light.
Refrain

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.
Refrain

3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.
Refrain

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation Jerry Crisp

Hymn of His Birth..... Hymn 96
Good Christian Men, Rejoice by John Mason Neale

1. Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today.
Man and beast before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now;
Christ is born today,
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this,
He has opened heaven's door,
And man is blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save!

Lighting of the Advent Candle.....Dr. Dew

Hymn of His Birth..... Hymn 98
I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day by Henry W. Longfellow

1. I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

2. I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.
3. And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."
4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."
5. Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Children's Lesson.....*Herod the Grinch*



Theme: How Herod tried to steal the first Christmas.

Object: Book or Video — "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

Scripture: *When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."* Matthew 2:13 (NIV)

I'm sure that most of you have read the story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." If you haven't read the story, perhaps you have seen the movie. If so, you will remember how everyone in Who-ville loved Christmas. Everyone, that is, except the Grinch. The Grinch hated Christmas and made up a plan to spoil the joy of Christmas in Who-ville. His plan was to dress up as Santa Claus and go into Who-ville and steal all of their Christmas presents, all of their Christmas trees, and even the food for their Christmas dinner.

What a terrible thing to do! Do you know why the Grinch hated Christmas so much? Well, according to the story, it was because his heart was too small! He was so selfish that he hated to see anyone else who was happy and enjoying themselves. But, as you know, the Grinch's plan did not work. Why? Because the people in Who-ville knew that the real joy of Christmas does not come from the presents, decorations, and food -- it comes from a heart filled with love.

The story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is not a true story, but this morning I want to tell you a true story of another "Grinch" who tried to steal Christmas. In fact, he tried to steal the very first Christmas. This "Grinch" was a king by the name of Herod.

After Jesus was born, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked where they could find the child who had been born to be the king of the Jews. *"We have seen his star in the sky and want to worship him"* they said. When Herod heard about this, he told the men that when they found the child, they should come back and tell him where the child was so that he could worship him too. The truth is, Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus, he wanted to kill him. Why? Perhaps his heart was too small! Herod was so selfish that he was afraid Jesus would become more popular than he was and perhaps even take over his kingdom.

Well, Herod's plan to kill Jesus didn't work. After the wise men found Jesus and gave him gifts, an angel told them about Herod's plan and they went back home without telling Herod where they had found Jesus. An angel also appeared to Joseph and warned him of Herod's plan and told him to take Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt where they would be safe.

And so, we see that since the very first Christmas, Grinches have been trying to steal the joy of Christmas. There may be some "Grinches" that are trying to steal your Christmas joy. It will never work -- unless your heart is too small. Make sure that your heart is big enough to share the love and joy of Christmas with everyone you meet -- not just at Christmas -- but all year long.

Dear Father, we thank you for the joy that Jesus brings. Help us to share that joy with everyone we meet. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Children's Sermon is from www.sermons4kids.com)

Scripture Reading.....Matthew 2:1-12

Prayer of Intercession Dr. Dew

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC AND GIVING



An offering plate is placed in the vestibule for your tithes and offerings. You may also use the enclosed envelope in your weekly packet to mail your tithes and offerings to the church.

Solo.....Bonnie Gaddis
Where You There on That Christmas Night? by Natalie Sleeth

Instrumental MusicMichael Cowan
The First Nowell arr. by M. Cowan

	<p><i>What Can You Give Jesus This Christmas?</i></p> <p>Matthew 2:1-12</p> <p>By</p> <p>Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.</p>
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WORSHIP THROUGH RESPONSE

Hymn of the Coming of the Wise Men..... Hymn 118
What Child Is This by William C. Dix

1. 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?

Refrain

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Refrain

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Refrain

BenedictionDr. Dew

PostludeMichael Cowan and Michell Eguez
Hymn of the Faith

