

# TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

December 15, 2024

**WE ARE ONE CHRISTIAN FAMILY LED BY GOD'S WORD AND THE  
HOLY SPIRIT INTO LOVING SERVICE.**

**Bible Based Preaching, Spiritual Growth, Great Commission  
(Go, Make Disciples...)**

## **+ + + RECONNECTING WITH GOD + + +**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC "Graves Into Gardens"**

**I search the world, But it couldn't fill me.  
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade  
Are never enough.  
Then You came along And put me back together.  
And ev'ry desire Is now satisfied Here in Your love.**

**(Chorus)**

**Oh, there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You.  
Lord, there's nothing, Nothing is better than You.**

**I'm not afraid To show You my weakness.  
My failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all,  
And You still call me friend.**

**'Cause the God of the mountain Is the God of the valley.  
There's not a place Your mercy and grace Won't find me again.**

**Chorus x 2**

**You turn mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes.  
You turn shame into glory. You're the only one who can.  
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.  
You turn seas into highways. You're the only one who can.  
You're the only one who can.**

**Chorus x 2**

**You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.  
You turn seas into highways. You're the only one who can.  
You're the only one who can.**

Graves Into Gardens

Words and music by Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick and Tiffany Hammer

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## **WELCOME**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you

**C:** And also with you.

### **OPENING "Emmanuel Come"**

**O come, O come Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lowly exile here Until the Son of God appears.**

#### **(Pre-Chorus)**

**Come, bring the light of Your holy face;  
Heal our hearts with Your saving grace.  
The hope of nations now with us to dwell.**

#### **(Chorus)**

**Rejoice, rejoice; We lift up longing hearts and sing.  
Rejoice, rejoice; Let ev'ry tongue and nation ring.  
Rejoice, rejoice; Almighty God and Savior, King.  
Rejoice, rejoice; For great, triumphant hope You bring**

**O come, Thou dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.**

#### **Pre-Chorus**

#### **Chorus**

**Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel. We lift our hearts and sing.  
Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel. Let ev'ry nation ring.  
Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel. Almighty God and King.  
Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel. Triumphant hope You bring.**

#### **Pre-Chorus**

#### **Chorus**

**Emmanuel, Come, Emmanuel.  
Emmanuel, Come, Emmanuel.**

## **WE CONFESS**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may truly love you and rightly honor your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God.

**C: Gracious God, have mercy on me. In your compassion forgive my sins, Known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold me by your Holy Spirit so that I may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: In Jesus our gracious God has had mercy on you and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

## **READING FROM THE PSALMS    Psalm 111: 2-5**

P: Great are the works of the LORD;

**C: They are pondered by all who delight in them.**

P: Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

**C: His righteousness endures forever.**

P: He causes his wonders to be remembered;

**C: The LORD is gracious and compassionate.**

P: He provides for those who trust and fear him;

**C: He remembers his covenant promises forever.**

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

**WE SING: "My God Is Still The Same"**

**Just ask the waves If they are stilled at the mention of His name.  
They'll say my God is still the same.**

**Ask the walls If they still fall at the mighty sound of praise.  
They'll say my God is still the same.**

**(Chorus)**

**When did He break His promise? When did His kindness fail?**

**Never has, never will, My God is still the same.**

**When did He lose His power? When did His mercy change?**

**Never has, never will, My God is still the same.**

**Yeah. My God is still the same.**

**Just ask the words You prayed in desperation if they're heard.**

**They'll say my God is still the same.**

**Ask the grave If it's strong enough to keep hope in its chains.**

**It'll say God is still the same. Yeah.**

**Chorus**

**(Bridge)**

**Not once did He ever stop moving. Not once has He ever let go.**

**Not once did He ever stop proving. Our God is in control. (Repeat)**

**Chorus**

**Bridge**

**Not once did He ever stop moving. Not once has He ever let go.**

**Never has, never will, my God is still the same.**

**My God is still the same. My God is still the same.**

My God is Still the Same

Words and music by Josh Bronleewe, Benji Cowart, Dustin Lolli and Chris Rohman

CCLI Song #7175474

## **FIRST LESSON      Zephaniah 3: 14-20**

Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. 16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. 17 The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." 18 "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. 19 At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. 20 At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND LESSON      1 Corinthians 1: 18-25**

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL Luke 7: 18-28**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, 19 he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" 20 When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" 21 At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. 22 So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 23 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." 24 After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 25 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. 26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 28 I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**WE SING: "Manger Throne"**

**Oo, Oo.**

**You could have stepped into creation With fire for all to see,  
Brought ev'ry tribe and nation to their knees,  
Arriving with the host of heaven In royal robe and crown,  
The rulers of the earth all bowing down.**

**But You chose meekness over majesty, Wrapped Your power in humanity.**

**(Chorus)**

**Glory be to You alone, King who reigns from a manger throne.**

**My life, my praise, ev'rything I own To Jesus, the King on a manger throne.**

**You could have marched in all Your glory Into the heart of Rome,  
Showed them splendor like they'd never known.  
But You wrote a better story In humble Bethlehem,  
Creator in the arms of common men.  
You will die for our redemption, And You'll rise so we can live.**

### **Chorus**

**From heaven to the cradle, From cradle to the cross,  
Let heaven and nature sing, "This is our King."  
But the grave couldn't hold Him; Our God has overcome.  
Let heaven and nature sing, "This is our King." (Repeat)  
All hail the King. All hail the King. All hail the King.**

### **Chorus**

**My life, my praise, ev'rything I own To Jesus, the King on a manger throne,  
To Jesus, the King on a manger throne.**

**Manger Throne Words and music by Phil Wickham, Tony Wood and Jonathan Smith  
CCLI Song #7226106**

## **SERMON**

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH      The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**+ + + WE OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYER + + +**

**PRAYERS**    concluding with

**P:** Lord in your mercy...

**C:** Hear our prayer.

**OFFERING**    (Please place your offering in offering plates located on pedestals at the back of the church.)

## **OFFERING "Christmas Offering"**

**Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star,  
While angels sang to lowly shepherds;  
Three wise men seeking truth Traveled from afar  
Hoping to find the child from Heaven;  
Falling on their knees They bowed before the humble  
Prince of Peace.**

**(Chorus)**

**I bring an offering of worship to my King;  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing;  
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due;  
Oh Lord, I bring an offering to You. I bring an offering to You.**

**The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love;  
There is no shadow in Your presence;  
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne,  
Before the Holy One of Heaven;  
It's only by Your blood, It's only through Your mercy,  
Lord, I come.**

**Chorus x2**

**We bring an offering to You; Oh, we bring an offering to You,  
Oh, we bring an offering to You, Oh.**

Christmas Offering Words and Music by Paul Baloche  
© 2003 CCLI Song #7005509

**+ + + COMMUNING WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER + + +**

### **PREFACE**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift your hearts and hands in praise

**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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## **COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: It is truly good, right and beneficial ... evermore praising you and singing:

**C:** *\* Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth, adored: Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**ALL:** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Our Lord on the night he was betrayed . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

## **DISTRIBUTION SONG      "A King Like This"**

**A King like this, Majesty laying in a manger.**

**A King like this, Unto us is born a Savior.**

**The Light, the light has come.**

**A King like this, The highest name and the song of heaven.**

**A King like this, Born of flesh into our suffering.**

**The Light, the light has come.**

**(Chorus)**

**He is Christ, the Lord. He is Christ, our Savior.**

**I bow my heart before No other name.**

**I bow my heart before No other King.**

**A King like this, A saving love that would not forsake us;**

**Betrayed by a kiss, And led to the cross for our forgiveness.**

**The Light, the light has come.**

**Chorus**

**We lift up our eyes, The Light has come!**

**We lift up our eyes, The Light has come!**

**We lift up our eyes, The Light has come!  
We lift up our eyes, Lift up our eyes.  
Lift up your eyes!**

**He is Christ, the Lord. He is Christ, our Savior. (Repeat)**

**I bow my heart before No other name.  
I bow my heart before No other King. (Repeat)**

**A King like this, A throne of grace that will stand forever  
The angels sing Glory, glory hallelujah!  
The Light, the light has come! The Light, the light has come.**

A King Like This Words and music by Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin  
© 2015 CCLI Song #7050428 "Fear Is Not My Future"

### **"Light of the World"**

**The world waits for a miracle, The heart longs for a little bit of hope.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

**A child prays for peace on earth, And she's calling out from a sea of hurt.  
O come, O come Emmanuel.**

**(Pre-Chorus)  
And can you hear The angels singing:**

**(Chorus)  
Glo--ry to the Light of the world. Glo--ry, the Light of the world is here.**

**The drought breaks with the tears of a mother,  
A baby's cry is the sound of love come down.  
Come down, Emmanuel. Woh.**

**He is the song for the suffering. He is Messiah.  
The Prince of peace has come, He has come; Emmanuel, oh.**

**Chorus x2**

**For all who wait, For all who hunger,  
For all who've prayed, For all who wonder,  
Behold your King, Behold Messiah. Emmanuel. Emmanuel.**

**Glo--ry to the Light of the world. (Repeat x2)**

**Behold your King, Behold Messiah. Emmanuel. Emmanuel.**

**The world waits for a miracle, The heart longs for a little bit of hope.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Light of the World Words and music by Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan and Paul Mabury  
© 2014 CCLI Song #7023299

## **POST-DISTRIBUTION PRAYER**

### **+ + + WE GO WITH GOD'S BLESSING + + + BLESSING**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

### **CLOSING SONG "Praise"**

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord, praise the Lord.  
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord, praise the Lord.**

**I'll praise in the valley, Praise on the mountain.  
I'll praise when I'm sure, Praise when I'm doubting.  
I'll praise when outnumbered, Praise when surrounded,  
'Cause praise is the water My enemies drown in.**

**As long as, I'm breathing, I've got a reason to  
Praise the Lord, oh, my soul. Praise the Lord, oh, my soul.**

**I'll praise when I feel it And I'll praise when I don't.  
I'll praise 'cause I know You're still in control.  
'Cause my praise is a weapon, It's more than a sound.  
My praise is the shout That brings Jericho down.**

**As long as, I'm breathing, I've got a reason to  
Praise the Lord, oh, my soul. Praise the Lord, oh, my soul.  
I won't be quiet, My God is alive.  
How can I keep it inside? Praise the Lord, oh, my soul.**

**I'll praise 'cause You're sov'reign, Praise 'cause You reign.  
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave.  
I'll praise 'cause Your faithful, Praise 'cause You're true.  
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You. (Repeat)**

**Praise the Lord, oh, my soul. Praise the Lord, oh, my soul. (Repeat)**

**I won't be quiet, My God is alive. How can I keep it inside? (Repeat 2x)**

**Praise the Lord, oh, my soul.**

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord, praise the Lord.**

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord, praise the Lord.**

Praise Words and music by Brandon Lake, Chandler Moore, Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Pat Barrett and Steven Furtick  
CCLI Song #7213077

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **POST-SERVICE**

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