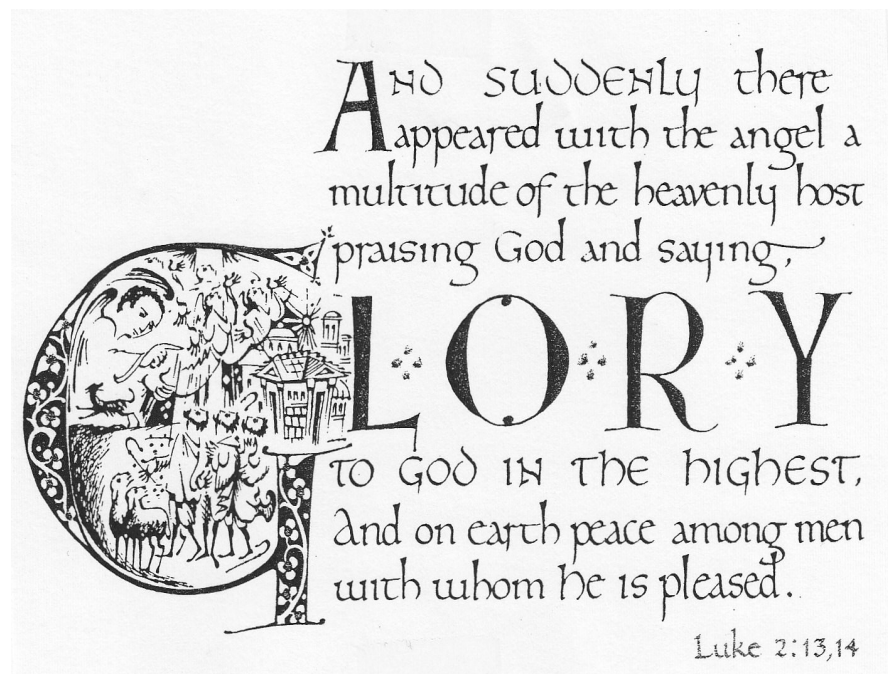


While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Words: Nahum Tate (1700)

Music: Christmas from George F. Handel *Siroe* (1728) Arr. Lowell Mason (1821)

The Festival of the Incarnation of God



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

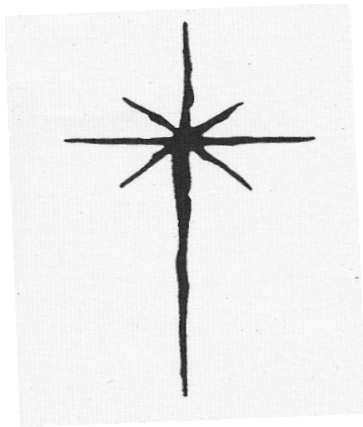
And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Cover art: Pen and ink drawing by former member, Jim Malecky (c. 1980's).

Christmas Day 2012

Old Orchard Church

11:00 a.m.



*The
light
shines
in
the
darkness....
And
the
Word
became
flesh....
John 1:5a, 14a*

*The Nativity of Jesus Christ:
Good News of a Great Joy*

O dying souls!
Behold your living spring;
O dazzled eyes,
Behold your sun of grace;
Dull ears, attend what word
This Word doth bring;
Up, heavy hearts, with joy
Your joy embrace.

From death, from dark,
From deafness, from despairs,
This life,
This light,
This Word,
This joy repairs.

—Robert Southwell (1561-1595)



Today's Scripture

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35
Gospel reading: John 1:1-14

Homily on the Word

“Living Out of Christmas Joy”
Luke 2:1-20
Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

Litany of Praise

Leader: We bless you, God of all glory,
through your Son, the Christ.
His name is Jesus—"the Lord saves,"

People: because he saves his people from their sin.

He is called Immanuel:

God with us—God like us.

The Son will be called Mighty God. Alleluia!

Who will bring peace for our wars—
peace for all the violence of the enraged and the desperate?
Who will bring justice into the calculations and manipulations of men?
Who will tend the weak and the forgotten?

**Christ, the newborn King! He shines in our darkness, and drives
hatred and greed from the heart. All things are laid bare before him.**

He gave up the glory of heaven;
he gave himself, taking the form of a servant.

And the Word was made flesh,
and we saw his glory.

**He lived among us, a life;
he laughed, he loved, he cried.**

In humility he walked the path of obedience,
all the way to a shameful cross of pain.

But God raised him to the highest place
and gave him infinite joy, and all authority,
and a name above every name:

Jesus Christ is Lord!

So that every being in heaven and earth might fall at his feet,
And proclaim to the glory of God:

Jesus Christ is Lord!

This is the day we celebrate that Christ was born.

Alleluia!

This is the day we mark the Savior's coming.

Alleluia!

This is the day we rejoice that the angels proclaimed on earth:

**I bring you good news of a great joy,
That will be for all the people! Amen.**

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