**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Sunday, December 25th, 2022 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – NTH 229 – Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

**Announcements**

**Gospel Greeting** – Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. - 2 Timothy 1:2

**Call to Worship Song** – NTH 219 – All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord

**Call to Worship** – And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” – Luke 2:10-11

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 203 – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

**Reading of the Law** – Galatians 3:10-12

(Silent Confession of Sin)

**Corporate Confession of Sin** – Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature – prone to evil and slothful in good – and all our shortcomings and offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for all the ways we have displeased you. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of your dear Son. And O most holy and loving Father, send your purifying grace into our hearts, we beseech you, that we may henceforth live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon** – But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. – Gal. 4:4-7

**Exhortation to Give** – For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. – 2 Cor. 8:9

**Collection with Prayer** (Offertory: W&C 168 – Who Is He in Yonder Stall?)

**Doxology** – NTH 733 – Doxology

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn of Preparation** – NTH 241 – Thou Dost Reign on High

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Isaiah 7:10-17 / NT: Matthew 1:18-25

Isaiah 7:10–17 (ESV)

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: 11 “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” 12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” 13 And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. 17 The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

Matthew 1:18–25 (ESV)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of Matthew 1:18-25: "Jesus: Born to Save Sinners Only"

Jesus, God with us, is conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin – to save only qualified, self-admitted sinners:

1. The not-so-glad tidings for Joseph. (Matthew 1:18-19)
2. The angel’s intervention and Gospel revelation. (Matthew 1:20-21)
3. The Scripture’s fulfillment. (Matthew 1:22-23)
4. The believing and obedient response of Joseph. (Matthew 1:24-25)

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response** – NTH 196 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**Benediction** – The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. – 2 Corinthians 13:14