

Promised and Fulfilled

Studies in Matthew



ROCKY MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 3, 2023

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Glorifying God by making disciples who love Christ, his Church, and all people.

Welcome!

VISITOR INFORMATION

During parts of our service, the congregation is asked to stand

(indicated by a * in the bulletin). We understand that some are not able to stand for various reasons; please feel free to remain seated.

Please fill out a Next Step card with your contact information and/or prayer requests. Place it in the box on the back table.

If you have an urgent prayer request, you can email it to admin@rmpca.org.

We love children and believe that God calls us to help them grow in the faith. Children's activity bags are available at the back of the sanctuary, along with a cry room. You are welcome to keep your children with you throughout the service.

NURSERY: There is a nursery available downstairs during the entire worship service for infants and toddlers up to 3 years old.

*Rocky Mountain Presbyterian Church
is a congregation of the Presbyterian
Church in America (PCA).*

* Joy to the World!

From Psalm 98 by Isaac Watts, 1719.

Music by George F. Handel, 1742.

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing;
And heaven and nature sing;
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ!
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy;
Repeat the sounding joy;
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground!
He comes to make His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found;
Far as the curse is found;
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of his love;
And wonders of his love;
And wonders, wonders of His love!

*** ADVENT READING - Isaiah 7:14**

Fred and Melody Flanders

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Worship Leader: Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

People: It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;

Worship Leader: And rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;

People: He who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 136:26, 23-25

*** O Come All You Unfaithful**

Music and words by Bob Kauflin and Lisa Clow
© 2020 Sovereign Grace Praise/BMI

1. O come, all you unfaithful;
Come, weak and unstable;
Come, know you are not alone.

2. O come, barren and waiting;
Ones, weary of praying;
Come, see what your God has done.

CHORUS

**Christ is born, Christ is born,
Christ is born for us.**

3. O come, bitter and broken;
Come with fears unspoken;
Come, taste of His perfect love.

4. O come, guilty and hiding;
Ones, there is no need to run;
See what your God has done.

CHORUS (x2)

BRIDGE

**He's the Lamb who was given,
Slain for our pardon;
His promise is peace
For those who believe.
He's the Lamb who was given,
Slain for our pardon;
His promise is peace
For those who believe.**

5. So come, though you have nothing;
Come, He is the offering;
Come, see what your God has done.

CHORUS (x2)

* **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Lyrics by Phillips Brooks, 1868.

Music by Lewis H. Redner, 1868.

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King,
And peace to men on earth.

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sins and enter in,
Be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

* **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Worship Leader: How long, O LORD?

People: Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.

Worship Leader: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!

People: And we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

Adapted from Psalm 79

Silent Confession of Sin

Worship Leader: Lift up your heads, for you are a people holy to the Lord your God, and hear these words of grace.

Words of Grace

The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

* **Peace on Earth**

Music and lyrics by Paul Baloche and Michael Rossback.

Arr. by Shane Ohlson.

1. We come before You
With hardships and fears;
We lay down our burdens,
Lord draw us near.
Blind to injustice, we've turned our eyes;
Lord heal our brokenness, raise us to life.

CHORUS

**Peace on earth, peace on earth;
Lord hear our prayer:
Your peace on earth.
Peace on earth, peace on earth;
Lord hear our prayer:
Your peace on earth
Peace, peace, peace.**

2. Jesus our Savior, You've made us one;
Walls of division torn down by love.
The cross has redeemed us,
All penance paid;
Love through forgiveness,
We have been saved.

CHORUS

3. Friend of the widow, Hope to the poor,
Proof to the doubting heart, end of all wars.
Mercy to sinners, Light of the world,
All pow'r and authority;
Lord speak Your Word.

CHORUS

OFFERING AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Our offering box is on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

You can also give online at <https://rmpca.org/giving/>

Fill out an online Next Step card at <https://rmpca.org/nextsteps>



SCAN HERE TO GIVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

8:30 Service: Parents of 3-5 year olds can use this time to take your kids downstairs and sign them in for Junior Church - Bible lesson and craft activity.

11:00 Service: Parents of 3-5 year olds can use this time to take your kids downstairs for child care.



**SCAN HERE FOR
NEXT STEP CARD**

Salvation in the Midst of Suffering
Select Passages from Micah and Matthew 2:1-13
Promised and Fulfilled: Studies in Matthew
Pastor Chris Weniger

Micah 1:1-7

¹ The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

² Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it, and let the Lord God be a witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple. ³ For behold, the Lord is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth. ⁴ And the mountains will melt under him, and the valleys will split open, like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place. ⁵ All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem? ⁶ Therefore I will make Samaria a heap in the open country, a place for planting vineyards, and I will pour down her stones into the valley and uncover her foundations. ⁷ All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, all her wages shall be burned with fire, and all her idols I will lay waste, for from the fee of a prostitute she gathered them, and to the fee of a prostitute they shall return.

Micah 4:6-10

⁶ In that day, declares the Lord, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted; ⁷ and the lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore. ⁸ And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, the former dominion shall come, kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem. ⁹ Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in you? Has your counselor perished, that pain seized you like a woman in labor? ¹⁰ Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you shall go out from the city and dwell in the open country; you shall go to Babylon. There you shall be rescued; there the Lord will redeem you from the hand of your enemies.

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. ¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

Sermon Notes

The Lord's Supper

Minister: And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

People: And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Minister: I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom.

Adapted from Luke 22

All who trust Christ for salvation and desire to live for him are invited to participate. If that doesn't describe you, feel free to sit and reflect on what God may be saying to you through His Word.

Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles. Select either grape juice (in the clear cups) or wine (in the red cups). After receiving the elements, we return to our seats to partake together.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Ingredients: Garbanzo Bean Flour, Potato Starch, Tapioca Flour, Whole Grain Sweet White Sorghum Flour, Fava Bean Flour, Water.

Children who have not yet made a profession of faith are invited to come forward for prayer at a prayer station. If your child is ready to profess their faith, please speak with our Pastor or one of the Elders.

*** O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

Latin Hymn 1710. Tr. John Mason Neale.

Tune: Veni Emmanuel. Arr: Thomas Helmore.

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

REFRAIN

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

REFRAIN

3. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

REFRAIN

4. O come, thou Dayspring,
Come and cheer
Our spirits by Thy advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

REFRAIN

5. O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

REFRAIN (x2)

*** Benediction**

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RMPC WOMEN PRAY — FRIDAYS, 9:00am -10:00am

All RMPC women are invited. Childcare is available. In December we are praying for strength and courage, seeking and finding God, and finding rest in Jesus, as well as for individual concerns and for RMPC. If you have any questions, please contact Blue Olson or Katie Houde.

CAROLING, COOKIES, COFFEE, COCOA — SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Meet at the church to head out into the neighborhood to sing Christmas carols and hand out bags with treats and an invitation to our Christmas Eve service. Meet back at the church to warm up with cookies, coffee, and cocoa and share stories! Sign up at the back of the sanctuary or on Church Center. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Collins (hcollins12417@gmail.com).

CHRISTMAS EVE ADULT CHOIR

The RMPC Choir will perform "A New Noel" on **Sunday, December 24, at 5pm**. All are encouraged to join, including older youth! Please sign up through Church Center by joining the RMPC Choir Group or emailing Greg Upton. Rehearsals are between first and second services. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Upton (greg.upton@rmpca.org).

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We will showcase the kids singing "All Because Jesus is Born" during the **8:30am service on December 17**. Anna Bain, Jodi McFadden, and Greg Upton will lead the choir with the lyrics on the screen for the kids to follow. Short, 15-minute rehearsals start **December 3rd at 10am** (between first and second service) and again on **Dec 10th**. If you have children aged preschool through 8th grade, you may have received an email and been added to the RMPC Children's Choir Group in Church Center with access to the song lyrics and recording. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Upton (greg.upton@rmpca.org).

DECEMBER 24 SERVICES

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. Instead of our usual two morning services, on **Sunday, December 24**, we will have one morning worship service at **10am**, and our annual candle-light Christmas Eve service at **5pm**.

NO DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES ON DECEMBER 24 OR DECEMBER 31

WOMEN OF RMPC WOMEN'S RETREAT 2024

The Women's Retreat is **Friday, March 1**, and **Saturday, March 2**, at the Hilton Garden Inn Thornton/North Denver. Registration is open on Church Center and paper sign-up in the back. You can come during the daytime only (\$120) or stay overnight (\$135/145)! Scholarships are available. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Waggoner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTREACH PRAYER FOCUS — **Elevate Hope Centennial**

Please pray for Elevate Hope Centennial and Pastor Brett Weston:

- Pray for Elevate Hope as they partner with Arapahoe County Human and Family Services to create a holiday gift shop for children and adults in crisis, victims of abuse and neglect, and those experiencing financial hardship. Pray that people would see the love of Christ in action through this event and through His people.
- Praise for their elders and deacons who are finishing up their training and the work that God has done in the lives of these men! They are leading and serving in practical ministry, while Elevate Hope considers the next step toward particularization. Pray that God would provide wisdom and help to Elevate Hope as they consider this next step.
- Pray that God would continue to use this church plant to spread the gospel and make disciples in Centennial.
- Pray that God would provide them with the financial resources they need.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund -

December 2022 - October 2023

Giving: \$578,293

Budget: \$551,997

Difference: \$26,297

Faith Promise Pledge

(Missions and Outreach) -

May 2023 - April 2024

Pledged: \$28,718

Giving: \$26,641

Building in Faith Campaign -

October 2022 - October 2023

Pledged: \$995,597

Giving: \$592,226

Remaining: \$403,371

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