

"For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,"  
- Colossians 1:19



3410 Lemay Ferry Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63125  
314-631-9217 <https://afftonpc.org/>

July 26, 2020 - Christmas in July

Meet with us online or via phone at 10 am:

[Click here to join via Zoom](#)

or call 312-626-6799 and when prompted enter the meeting ID: 942 617 477  
and password 3410

On the phone, dial \*6 to mute or unmute yourself.

### Service for the Lord's Day

#### *Words of Welcome & Announcements*

#### *Call to Worship*

One: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

Many: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

One: We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

Many: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

One: We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?

Many: 'We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

*Hymn*

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

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 wond'ring 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 heav'n.  
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 sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;

○ come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

*Unison Prayer for Forgiveness:* We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love.

*Let us confess our individual sins in silence. Amen.*

*Assurance of Pardon*

*Response*

*"Have Thine Own Way," verse 1*

Have thine own way, Lord!

Have thine own way!

Thou art the potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me after thy will,  
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

*Passing the Peace*

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**Many: and also with you.**

One: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace.

*Scripture*

*Colossians 1:15-20, 28:* 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. 28It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

*John 1:1-5, 10-14:* In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

*Sermon*

Rev. Kathleen Henrion

*Hymn*

*Silent Night, Holy Night"*

1 Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4 Silent night! Holy night!  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing  
    alleluias to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

*Affirmation of Faith A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Offering  
[link](#)

If you would like to give electronically, [follow this link](#)

Checks may also be mailed to the church office

*Response of Praise*

*"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" verse 1*

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
    all is safely gathered in,  
    ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,

raise the song of harvest home.

*Prayer of Dedication*

May the gifts we offer bring food to the hungry, healing to the broken, community to the lonely, and hope to those who live in the shadows of our time. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn "Joy to the World"*

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth! 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 sins and sorrows 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.

*Charge and Benediction*

Liturgy from Thom M. Shuman: [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)