Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel

1 Tower Avenue in Historic Fort Snelling, Minnesota

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24 December 2023 — 11:00 a.m.

Non-Denominational Christian Worship Service

hosted by

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*
The Congregation, *Ministers of the Gospel*

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Kenneth "Ken" L. Beale, Jr., *Senior Chaplain*
Rev. Philip "Buddy" A. Winn, Jr., *Associate Chaplain*
Dr. Desiderius "Desi" Klempay, *Organist*
Tamara Henschel, *Special Music Coordinator*

Administrative Staff

Bev Johnson, *Office Manager*
Barbara Linert, *Administrative Assistant*
Carol Nygaard, *Accounting Specialist*

Where the Veteran Is Remembered

ORDER OF WORSHIP

We are glad that you are here for worship today!
*The * indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able.*
*The ** indicates times for the ushers to seat latecomers.*
*The **bold print** indicates readings/choral responses of the congregation.*
If you have a cell phone, please turn off the ringer. Thank you.

Lighting of Altar Candles *Symbol of the Spirit's Presence*

Lighting of the POW/MIA Candle

Special Music

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"	H.W. Longfellow/J. Marks
"The Little Drummer Boy"	K.K. Davis
"The First Noel"	English Carol
"Mary's Little Boy Child"	J. Hairston
"Do You Hear What I Hear"	N. Regney/G. Shayne
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"	American Folk Song
Medley: "Angels From the Realms of Glory"	J. Montgomery/H. Smart
"O, Come, All Ye Faithful"	J.F. Wade/F. Oakeley

Organ Prelude "A Christmas Pastorale" G. Valentini

Consider using these sacred moments to meditate upon the scripture reading and prepare yourself to receive a blessing from God. Kindly be considerate of your neighbor's need for silence. We encourage your conversations to be held following worship. Please refrain from applause after the organ prelude.

Ringing of the Ship Bell

Lighting of the Third Candle of the Advent Wreath—LOVE

L = Leader **P = People**

L: We come on this last Sunday before Christmas to light the fourth Advent candle.
P: May we be saved from being overly absorbed in the materialism and commercialization of the season, so that our hearts will be filled with the love of Christ.
L: Let us pray.
P: Eternal God, through long generations You prepared a way in our world for the coming of Your Son. By Your Spirit You are still bringing the light of the Gospel to darkened lives. May we be sufficiently prepared to be able to welcome the Christ Child to rule our thoughts and claim our love as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

* ***Processional Hymn of Praise*** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" # 255

"Adeste Fideles" words and music by Wade and Wade
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1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

(Refrain) O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest: (Refrain)
3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning: Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)

* ***Invocation***

* ***Choral Response*** (sung by all)

"Habakkuk 2:20" music by Harrington
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The Lord is in His holy temple;
Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

** ***Organ Interlude***

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Dear God, we join our hearts together before You to confess that like so many in the world, we fail to grasp Your plan of redemption and what it really cost You to save us. You have put eternity in our hearts and drawn our attention from worldly pursuits to the glories of Your heavenly Kingdom. Yet we content ourselves to be so absorbed in our own little plans that we fail utterly to find joy in our walk with You. Forgive us for making Your great plan for us nothing more than a religious obligation. Faith and forgiveness are what we need, and these are what we seek until at last You bring us home to be forever with You, Lord. For we pray in His name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

* ***Gloria Patri*** (sung by all)

"Greatorex" words and music by *Gloria Patri*, 2nd cent. and Greatorex
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Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

* ***Statement of Faith*** A Christmas Creed

L: Christian, what do you believe?

P: **I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the Gospel begun in Bethlehem.**

I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a little town; and whose Spirit still brings music to persons all over the world in towns both large and small.

I believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room.

I believe in the One who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people; whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms; whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth; who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them; who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I believe in Jesus, the Christ-child, born in Bethlehem for sinners like you and me. Amen.

** ***Organ Interlude***

Children's Message (children gather on the steps of the chancel)

† Children Ages 5-10 are dismissed for Children's Church †

Special Music Medley: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" E. Sears/R. Willis
"Angels We Have Heard on High" French Carol

Scripture Reading St. Matthew 2:1-18 (New King James Version)

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 have seen His star in the East and have come
to worship Him."

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together,
he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:
6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what
time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search
carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me,
that I may come and worship Him also."

9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen
in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.
10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they

had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more."

Sermon **"When Darkness Invades"** Chaplain Beale

* ***Hymn of Response*** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" # 251

"Polish Carol" words and music by Reed and Jones
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1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
3. Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the Babe was born for all. Amen.

Greeting and Sharing of Church Life

We share the community announcements and invite everyone to record their presence by signing and passing the red "Friendship Pad" with those in your pew. Cards are provided in the pew card holders for writing prayer requests and placing on the offering plate.

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Dedication Prayer
Offertory Music "Come to See the Baby" J. Fredrickson

* Stewardship Response (sung by all)

"Old Hundredth" words and music by Ken and Bourgeois
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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Call to Prayer

Sharing of Joys and Concerns (text prayer requests to 612-747-1059)

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

Pastoral Prayer of the People

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 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. Amen.**

* ***Recessional Hymn of Dedication*** "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" # 246

"In Dulci Jubilo" words and music by Neale and *German traditional melody*
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2. Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born for this! He unbars the heavenly door, and man is blessed evermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now we need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

* ***Benediction***

* ***Extinguishing of the POW/MIA Candle***

* ***Choral Response*** (sung by all)

"America" words and music by Smith and *'Thesaurus Musicus'*
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Our fathers' God, to Thee, author of liberty, to Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, great God, our King. Amen.

* ***Extinguishing of Altar Candles*** *Taking the Light Into the World*

Postlude "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" D. Buxtehude

† Children are dismissed from the classroom to return to guardians †

WORSHIP LEADER: Mel Henschel

LIGHTING CANDLES OF ADVENT WREATH: Dan, Cathy, Ella, Ava Stocker family

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Raymond Berg

WELCOME KIT DISTRIBUTOR: Rose Sullivan

SPECIAL MUSIC: A sincere welcome back to **Heidi Satterberg**. Heidi is a believer in Jesus Christ—a child of the King! She's honored to be the wife of Jim, the mother of two, and the grandmother ("Glamma") of three. She's a singer, pianist, performer, an artist who paints, and piano teacher; is involved in several ministries in her church; and loves entertaining with Jim. Although she strives to be content in life's circumstances, she does admit she prefers warm weather. Many thanks for sharing your time and talents with us this Lord's Day!

A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday 24 December 2023 (4:00 p.m.)
Join in the singing of carols
in the beauty of candlelight and of a garden of poinsettias.
The evening service will feature vocal and instrumental arrangements
Vocalist/Pianist **Dan & Karin Wickman †** Flutist **Tamara Henschel**
& organist **Dr. Desi Klempay**. Special music begins at 3:30 p.m.

Next Week (31 Dec) is the ***First Sunday after Christmas.*** Chaplain Buddy Winn will proclaim a message entitled ***"Drawing Water from the Well of Salvation"*** based on Isaiah 12:1-6. **Jim Gulickson** will provide the special music.

FREE Devotional Materials are available to you in the Fellowship Hall. The *Our Daily Bread* (Dec-Feb) devotional is available. Also LARGE PRINT copies of *Our Daily Bread* (Jan-Mar) is now available.

If You Have a Prayer Request ... our *Prayer Chain* can be activated by calling our coordinator, Suzanne Berg (612-743-1780). Your prayer concerns will be held confidential and shared only among the prayer chain members and pastor.

Ministry Beyond the Walls: Our weekly worship services can be viewed LIVE from your internet service. Homebound and absent members and friends can simply go to https://new.livestream.com/accounts/3709164 and tune in any Sunday starting at 10:45 a.m. Central Time. Services are also archived there for later viewing.

This Week in U.S. Military History:
24 Dec 1814 — Treaty of Ghent signed, ending War of 1812
24 Dec 1964 — began *USAF Strikes on Laos*
26 Dec 1776 — *Battle of Trenton*

A Special Welcome to our Visitors . . .

We are delighted you have chosen to worship here today! May you experience a sincere welcome and a sense of God's love for you. We gather as a community of faith to share the *Good News* of Jesus Christ. We encourage you to return again ... and bring others with you. We hope that we may provide the sense of community and stimulation of character you have been searching for. We provide individual pastoral care by request. You may call the chaplain for an appointment. We are willing to provide additional services as needed. Simply call the Chapel Office (952-888-1525) or Chaplain Ken (612-747-1059). If you would like to talk about the sacrament of baptism for yourself or a member of your family, arrangements can be made by contacting the chaplain. For bookings of the Chapel, contact the Fort Snelling State Park directly at 612-279-3555. Worship services are not subsidized or endorsed by the MN DNR.

Upholding the Chapel with our Membership Vows of ...

Prayers

Juanita Rector; Mary Bangerter; Ron Casteel; Keegan Iversen; Arlene Amyotte; Barb Steffenson; Trudy Miller; Leslie Hoppe; Nancy Tjornhom; Leslee; Barb Bohlin; free SSgt Calvin Gibbs & Pfc Corey Clagett; John Butler; Char; JoAnn Harkins; Pat Schwietz; Bob Maginnis; grandson Tyler; Carol Krohn; Sylvia; Laurie Wahl; Leslie Henschel; Paul Raleigh; Cathy Hennelly; Mel Henschel; Nina; Greg Maginnis; Kermit Bischoff; Patricia Adler; Kayla Rigney; Henry Langer; Sandy Sorensen; CH Thomas Eddy; Mike Wallman; Mick Burkard; Deb Axtell; Barbara Patton; Rich Quiring; Maddie Seeman; Tamara Henschel; Margaret Flower; Paul Anderson; Moreau & Dawn Sankey; Marla McLeland; Harry Gall; Ken Swensen; Sylvia; Bob; Sarah; Jim Gulickson; Keith Gesinger; Joanie Grugel; Abraham Quiring; Pat Peterson; Eleanor Carlson; Dawn Anderson; Suzanne Berg; Aika Takagi; Becky Henrickson; Gea Brown; Bruce VanBeusekom; Lee Miller; Tony Stocker; David Edstrom; Joel Smeby; peace in Ukraine; nation of Israel

Presence

Sunday, 17 December 2023 witness at Chapel worship = **131** Livestream = **33**

Gifts

Sunday, 17 December 2023 Chapel offering plate = **$5,363.00**

Service

Thanks to those who arranged our chancel garden of poinsettias.

For More Information:
Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation
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Website: www.fortsnellingmcf.org