**Sunday, December 18, 2011**

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**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – *Joy to the World*

**Adore Him – (***Matt Tullos***;** *Congregation read bold print)*

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

**Jesus Christ**

Who, being in very nature God,

**Son of God,**

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

**Jesus Christ**

Who, being in very nature God,

**Son of God,**

Being made in human likeness.

**“This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”**

And being found in appearance as a man,

**Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**

He humbled himself

**After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.**

And became obedient to death-

**Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”**

Even death on a cross!

**From the manger to the tomb,**

From the shepherds to the soldiers,

**God so loved the world.**

Jesus came.

**Jesus loved.**

Jesus wept.

**Jesus touched.**

Jesus died.

**Jesus gave.**

Jesus lives. This Christmas let this same mindset be yours.

**Let us come to Him because He came to us.**

Let us love one another because He first loved us.

**Let us weep with those who weep.**

Let us touch the untouchables.

**Let us die to self.**

Let us give and let us live.

**Let this mind be in us today, this holy time.**

For to us a child is born,

**To us a son is given.**

**Songs of Praise** – *O Little Town of Bethlehem/Alleluia*

**Offering**

**He is Pursuing You - *(Source: reformed-church.com)***

*Before we had anything to offer him, before we lifted our voices in praise or our hands to His work, before we opened a bible or walked into a church building, in fact even before we were ever created God was pursuing us with his love.*

*We don’t deserve the Love of God. We are gossips and worriers, we are lazy and irritable, we are controlled by our lusts and our appetites. We search after every thing but God and turn our backs on Him at every turn, and he still comes after us, chasing us, pursuing us with His unending love.*

*His love was announced by a baby in a manger. His love was proven by his body on a cross. In this time, in this place, let us dwell on that love. Let us put aside thoughts of trees and presents and malls and meals and focus on God’s pursuing love.*

*He is pursuing you right now. He knows you, knows your thoughts, and your actions. He is close to you, dwelling with you, delighting in you, and he loves you. Today is one more time that he is reminding you of that love. Today is one more time where God is reaching out to you and asking you to drink deep of Him and his love for you.*

*No matter where you come from, no matter what is going on in your life, or who has let you down or abandoned you, God has sought you out, and brought you here to say, “I love you.”*

**Songs of Praise –** *How Deep the Father’s Love For Us/We Fall Down*

**The Word Became Flesh** *(John 1:14/Matthew 2:11)*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother and they fell down and worshiped him.*

**Song of Worship** *– O Come All Ye Faithful*

**Message** – *“A Healthy Church”* Scripture Reference: Titus, Chapter 2

**Time of Prayer**