Dec. 21st, 2014  Third Sunday in Advent: Christmas Music Sermon by Pastor Bob Vale and other music teams: (Hand Bells, Baugo Bay, Choir, Praise Team, children’s team.)

Prelude: Lynn Lambert

Announcements:

Reading: A child reads: Cierra Konkle

Opening Video with Children singing Silent Night: Video: Nativity Story:

Responsive Reading: Laity Reader (Al Bishop)

Reading: Laity Reader (Nikki Barden)

Hand Bells: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Reading: Laity Reader (David Fox)

Baugo Bay Gospel Singers: Come and See the King by Ken Berg Talks about both angels and wise men and coming to see the new-born King.

Reading: Laity Reader (Lila Ritschard)

Chancel Choir Song: Shepherds Pipe Carol

Reading: Laity Reader (Ann Cwik)

Hymn of Praise: # 234 “O Come All Ye Faithful.”

Greeting: Pastor Bob Vale

Laity Reader (Larry Hill)

Prayer Request: Pastor Bob Vale

Prayer Hymn: # 204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

Singing: The Lord’s Prayer

Reading: Laity Reader (Yolanda Lindenlaub)

Adult Praise Team: How Many Kings (Downhere)

Offertory: Laity Reader (David Lindenlaub)
Adult Praise Team: Adult Praise Team & Choir: *Christmas Song Medley*
(Away In A Manger; The First Noel, Joy to the world, Go Tell it on the Mountain, Silent Night.)

Doxology:

**Reading:** *Laity Reader* (Mary & David Long)

**Chancel Choir Song:** Song # 2: *Glory, Glory to the newborn King.*

**Reading:** *Laity Reader* (Lisa VanHimbergen)

**Baugo Bay Gospel Singers:** *Christmas Is Coming*: Accompanied with Piano and Hand Bell Choir

**Reading:** *Laity Reader* (Doris Speicher)

**Special Music:** "*O Holy Night*" Cindy Davis

**Reading:** Laity Reader: (Adam Pickens)

**Closing Hymn,** # 238 *Angles We Have Heard On High*

**Benediction:** Pastor Bob Vale

**Prelude:** Lynn Lambert
Prelude: Lynn Lambert

Announcements:

Reading: A child reads: John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

Opening Video: Children sing Silent Night as the video plays: Nativity Story:

Responsive Reading: Laity Reader (Al Bishop)

Leader: Today we celebrate the season of the birth of Jesus, the Christ.

People: We celebrate the birth of Jesus, who showed us how to express God by letting the Christ within be our guide.

Leader: Herod was afraid of what Jesus might do and tried to destroy him.

People: We often fear what we do not understand. Jesus showed us that love is stronger than fear.

All: As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate how he lived, and we remind ourselves to live as Jesus lived by loving as Jesus loved – all people, all the time.

Reading: Laity Reader (Nikki Barden)

Reading: Isaiah 7:14 say’s “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel.” The name Emmanuel means “God with us.” The Lord gave us a wonderful gift by sending his only son into the world. Another word to describe God becoming a man is, “Incarnation.” Basically it means that God came to earth to become one of us, as a human being.

"The divine Son of God became a Jew; the Almighty of heaven appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, he needed to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child... The more you think about it, the more staggering and incredible it gets."

"The glory of the incarnation is that it presents to our adoring gaze not a humanized God or a deified man, but a true God-man - one who is all that God is
and at the same time all that man is: one on whose almighty arm we can rest, and
to whose human sympathy we can appeal."

I thank the Lord for the word Emmanuel, which reminds us all that God is
with us, is one of us, and loves us deeply. He is indeed our Emmanuel.

Please listen as the Hand Bell Choir plays the wonderful song: O Come, O
Come Emmanuel.

Hand Bell Choir:  O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Laity Reader  (David Fox)

Reading:  Understanding the incarnation is humanly impossible. Just how many
virgin births have we had in history; only one that I know of. The virgin birth is
simply a miracle; a miracle that has to be understood by faith alone. The best
scholars in the world can’t explain the virgin birth. The wisest philosophers in the
world cannot completely understand the virgin birth. The best doctors in the
world can’t describe the virgin birth to us. The deepest theologians cannot grasp its
true meaning.

Knowledge is not the key to understanding the virgin birth, faith is the key.
Faith simply leads us towards a heart-warming belief in the unexplainable virgin
birth.

One thing I have learned in my life, “in understanding spiritual things, the
mind can never be changed, until the heart is first changed.” Let me say that
again, “in understanding spiritual things, the mind can never be changed, until the
heart is first changed.” In other words, “believing is seeing” and not the other way
around.

Mary was a very special lady to be chosen by God to be the mother of His
only Son Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Luke 1:26-34  “LK 1:26  In the sixth
month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin
pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's
name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly
favored! The Lord is with you."

LK 1:29  Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of
greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you
have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and
you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son
of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33
and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

LK 1:34  "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"  LK 1:35
The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the
Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Please cast your spirit upon God as we hear the Baugo Bay Gospel Singers, perform the beautiful song, “Come and See The King.”

Baugo Bay Gospel Singers: Come and See the King

Laity Reader (Lila Ritschard)

Reading: When the time came for Mary to give birth to Jesus, it was lowly shepherds who first received the message from the angels of heaven. It was not the noble kings who received the message from God. It was not the wealthy land owners, it was not even the religious elite. It was common ordinary folks; working shepherds.

I think there is a message in the shepherds knowing first…“The good news of Jesus is for everyone! Let’s look at what the Bible says, Luke 2:9-20 “An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and
gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

*Lk 2:16* So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Our chancel choir will now sing a song portraying that wonderful night, where the shepherds were approached by the angels from heaven. The name of the song is, “The Shepherds Pipe Carol.”

**Chancel Choir Song: Shepherds Pipe Carol**

**Laity Reader** (Ann Cwik)

**Reading:** Luke 2:12 “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

One of the most popular Christmas hymns in the English language is “O Come All Ye Faithful.” The hymn has its roots in 18th century England and was written by John Wade. Often featured as the final hymn in Christmas worship services, the popularity of the carol worldwide is such that it also goes by the name **“The International Carol”**, and the history of the carol lives up to its global reach today.

A few of the key lines of this song depict the adoration of the new born King, Jesus.

1. Come & behold Him, born the King of Angels.
2. Yes, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning.
3. Oh come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

May we be a people who always come to adore Christ as the Lord of our lives.

Let us raise our voice together in song as we sing this cherished hymn, O’ Come All Ye Faithful.

**Hymn of Praise:** # 234 “O Come All Ye Faithful.”

**Greeting:** Greet each other with the Love of the Lord.
Laity Reader (Larry Hill)

Reading: As we go into our time of prayer and sing the wonderful song Emmanuel. We reflect upon the beauty of the song and its ease in touching our hearts. Not only does the name of the song mean God is with us, but when we sing these words, we truly feel God is with us in our spirit. May the spirit of the Lord touch your hearts and lives this Christmas season so that you may feel God’s presence. Peace to all the earth, Joy to all the world and Love to everyone as God is with us.

Prayer Request:

Prayer Hymn: #204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel.
Singing: The Lord’s Prayer

Laity Reader (Yolanda Lindenlaub)

Reading: Not only does the Bible call Jesus Emmanuel, He is also called, The Great Shepherd, The Bread of Life, The Alpha & Omega, The Bright & Morning Star and the Chosen One. One name is rather royal; He is simply called, “King.” Isaiah 9:6-7 says, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.”

This child king came for a purpose. He came with a plan. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords came to lay his very life down for you, so that you may live. How many people do you know would give their own lives for you? How many presidents or kings of countries around the world would give up their life for you? How many movie stars, who live like kings would give up their life for you? How many billionaires; (Warren Buffetts, Mark Zuckerbergs, and the Bill Gates of the world would willingly give up their life for you? Probably none!

There is truly only one King who would do that for you. His name is Jesus Christ. Even if you were the only person on the planet, Jesus would still die for you.

Please enjoy the praise band as they sing, How Many Kings
Praise Band:  *How Many Kings*  (*Downhere*)

*Laity Reader* (David Lindenlaub)

**Reading:** The Christmas Carol has been with the Christian tradition for hundreds of years. Singing them brings us joy and also teaches us about the story of Christmas itself. As we sing these songs we ask ourselves important questions like: What Child is this; When was the first noel; will there ever be joy in the world? We should sing these songs as if we were shouting on the mountain tops, to tell the greatest story of all time, about a holy night and a silent night. As we receive the offering, please sing one verse of some wonderful Christmas songs.

**Offertory:**

**Adult Praise Team:** Adult Praise Team & Choir:  *Christmas Song Medley*: Only one verse or chorus of: (Away In A Manger; The First Noel, Joy to the world, Go Tell it on the Mountain, Silent Night.)

**Doxology:**

*Laity Reader* (Mary or David Long)

**Reading:** So today, the Sabbath Sunday before the celebration of Christmas, we say, “*Glory, Glory to the newborn King.*” On the night of Jesus’ birth, He was more than likely surrounded by farm animals, sheep, goats and the shepherds who cared for them. A while later, wise men from the east came to give honor and glory to the newborn king.  *Matthew 2:1-12* says,  

> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."  

* MT 2:3  

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.  

* MT 2:4  

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.  

* MT 2:5  

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:"  

* MT 2:6  

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."  

* MT 2:7  

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.  

* MT 2:8  

He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."  

* MT 2:9  

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the
child was.  

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.  

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. 

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”

Please enjoy our chancel choir as they sing, *Glory, Glory to the newborn King.*

**Chancel Choir Song:** *Song # 2: Glory, Glory to the newborn King.*

**Laity Reader**  (Lisa VanHimbergen)

**Reading:** Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation.”

We have four more days until we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. A day we call Christmas. I hope this Christmas season you had the blessing of sharing the words Merry Christmas with another person in your circle of influence.

Over the centuries we have surrounded this sacred holy day to honor the birth of Christ with hundreds of symbols, meanings, Christmas songs, crafts, decorations, gifts, shopping, more shopping, even more shopping, delicious food & candies and many other festive activities. In my opinion, Christmas is one of the most joyful holidays of the year. Perhaps it should be, as Jesus brings joy into our lives.

Let’s celebrate together that Christmas is coming. Christmas is coming in our hearts as well as Christmas is coming in just four short days!

Please listen as the Baugo Bay Gospel Singers & the Hand Bell Choir, perform the song, *Christmas is coming.*

**Baugo Bay Gospel Singers:** *Christmas Is Coming:* Accompanied with Piano and Hand Bell Choir

**Laity Reader**  (Doris Speicher)

**Reading:** We close out our worship service, with what I think is one of the most powerful expressions of music to high-light the wonder of the Christmas celebration; O Holy Night. Two thousand years ago, it was both a silent night and a holy night. It was a night that changed the world and changed history. It was a night we received the greatest gift to all of humanity. It was a night that changed
all of our lives if we stop and think about it. Jesus came into the world to become our savior.

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. But our greatest need was forgiveness, So God sent us a Savior.

Let us thank God for that Holy Night

Please enjoy this wonderful Christmas tradition here at the Osceola UMC, as we listen to Ms. Cindy Davis sing, O Holy Night.

Special Music: “O Holy Night” Cindy Davis

Laity Reader: (Adam Pickens)

Today you have been blessed to hear wonderful Christmas music tell the story of Jesus coming to earth as a baby. This week is another Birthday celebration for the king of kings and Lord of Lords as our savior. Let us finish our worship service with one final hymn, Angels We Have Heard On High.

Closing Hymn, #238 Angels We Have Heard On High

Benediction: Pastor Bob Vale

Prelude: Lynn Lambert
Hello friends,

I am putting together a creative musical Christmas sermon on the weekend of the 20th and 21st of December.

As I am writing the sermon, it is being weaved between Christmas song selections. I think it is beautiful and will also be very powerful.

Rather than have myself as the pastor read all of the scriptures and commentary between the songs, I would like to have several laity read the scriptures and commentary. I think that too will be powerful.

Remember, this is for both the Saturday evening 5:30 p.m. service and also both services on Sunday morning. Please email me back if this is something you can help with. Each reading will be one scripture reading and about two paragraphs of commentary. Once I get responses from everyone, I will fill in the readings with names and then send you the sermon to go over. Hopefully in a week from now.

Thanks,

1. Al Bishop
2. Dena Phillips
3. Lila Ritchard
4. David Fox
5. Larry Hill
6. Doris Speicher
7. David Linenlaub
8. Yolanda Lindenlaub
9. Niki Barden
10. Ernest Pickens
11. Mary Long
12. Ann Cwik
13. Adam Pickens
14. Lisa V.
Hello Parents,

Myself and several children are singing the song: *Silent Night* for the three Christmas Eve services and also for the services coming up this next weekend. (December 20th & 21st) at all three services.

I would like to practice with any child who is interested in helping me for any of these 6 services in the coming weeks. I would like these children to practice with me this Tuesday evening in the Church sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. (Dec. 16th) I will be here along with the sound folks to have the children practice with me in the church sanctuary. I do hope your child will be able to help me out.

 Basically I am going to use them at the very beginning of all three services on Christmas Eve and also for all three services for the weekend of the 20th and 21st. (Saturday night 5:30 p.m. service and also both worship services on Sunday morning.) The Christmas Eve services are 5:30 p.m. / 7:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.)

Please let me know if your child is willing to participate with this and can attend the Tuesday evening practice on the 15th of December. If you have any questions in regard to any of these services, please give me a call on my cell phone or email me. My cell phone number is: 574-339-8142

Thanks and Blessings,

Pastor Bob Vale