

Our vision is to be a community of grace,
telling the unsaved of salvation by grace,
encouraging the saved to live and grow in grace,
and extending grace to others.

Alleluia, Lord Most High!

One of the joyous parts of Christmas for me is the music. We celebrate with such a wide variety of songs, both secular and sacred. Some are humorous like songs about grandma getting run over by a reindeer while others bring a magnificent offering of musical wealth like what we experience when hearing the masterpiece of Handel's *Messiah*.

One of my favorite Christmas songs is a hymn entitled, "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence." This hymn, based on a text known as the Cherubic Hymn, has been used in the church since the late fourth century. Its ancient text evokes a sense of majesty at the incarnation of Christ, and the slow, almost chant-like melody wonderfully expresses the awe and mystery that surrounds His birth.

Often times our worship is celebratory, as it should be, but there are moments that warrant a different mind-set. We come before Christ in silence and in awe to reflect upon the mystery of His birth, joined even by the hosts of heaven to witness the miracle. Singing this hymn, we can imagine ourselves standing in the stable, angels above, in reverent silence to worship the King, knowing that He is the One who will be victorious over death and will bring us life.

May our hearts be full of praise as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. May our voices sing the melodies of His heart, and in unity with one another, may we echo the sound of worship singing, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for, with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.*

*At His feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!"*

Jaris

December

THE MONTH OF

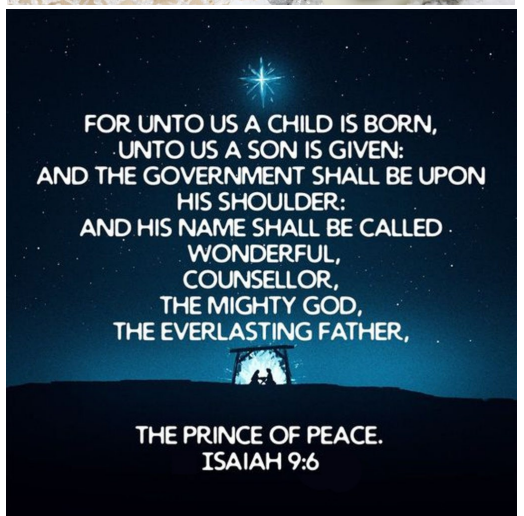
Calendar of Events

Join us for these upcoming events.

- 1 - Evening of Prayer, 7pm
- 13 - Ladies' Christmas Party, 5pm
- 20 - Men's Breakfast, 7:30am
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 6:00pm
- 25 - Christmas Day
- 29 - Jan 1 - Offices Closed

- We extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathies to the Hallak family in the tragic loss of Morgan Hallak. Please pray for God's surpassing peace and grace on Reese and Sam Hallak.
- Praise God for a wonderful visit from the Bartmas family. Pray for their safe return to Bolivia and that God would continue to bless their ministry.
- We extend our deepest sympathies to Mel Jackson and his family in the loss of his grandmother.

FAMILY UPDATE



DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA Club 6:30PM Youth Group	8	9	10	11	12	13 
14 *Verna Matlack 9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA Club 6:30PM Youth Group	15	16	17	18	19 *Wayne Hammond Evan Lutz	20 
21 9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA Club 6:30PM Youth Group	22	23	24 	25 	26	27 *Sonja Rains
28  10:30AM Worship	29 	30	31 			*Birthdays