

WELCOME

This morning as we join in worship, our hope for you is that you will find renewed life, health and strength in God. We are glad that you have heard God's call to come and worship, and that you have chosen to do so with this congregation. If you do not have a church home in this area, we invite you to join with us as we seek to serve Christ and live as His disciples. You may be received into church membership by profession of faith, letter of transfer, or reaffirmation of faith. If you are interested in uniting with this church, please contact the church office or any elder.

Session Members

Nancy Mason - '20 - Worship

Matt Shick - '20 - Stewardship

John Hehn - '21 - Facilities

Bob Friskney - '22 - Fellowship

Deborah Thatcher - '22- Mission

Cindy Doyle - '20 - Christian Ed.

Carina Brushwood - '21 - Cong. Care

Patty MacEwen - '21 - Administration

Carol Shick - '22 - Worship

Cammie Williams - Clerk of Session

Our Mission Statement

To provide opportunities for people to
discover God's love,
seek God's purpose,
and do God's will.

Our Vision Statement

Glorifying God with
mind, body, and soul.

Pastor: The Rev. Loli Reiter

Ministers: The Congregation

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts
of him who called you out of darkness into
his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9*

Music Director: Logan Sorey

Organist: Sheila Donohue

Worship Leader: TJ Childs

Nursery: Laura DeLeury

1906 S. Lenna Avenue, P.O. Box 545

Ph. 813-689-4412 * Fax 813-689-3840

pseffner@tampabay.rr.com

seffnerpres.org

**1st Day of Christmas in July
July 26, 2020, 11:00 A.M.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Love Came Down at Christmas”

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 9)

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness-
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

SONG “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.
Glory on High! (repeat)**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?
Glory on High! (repeat)**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new born King.
Glory on High! (repeat)**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, sometimes we wish we could press “fast forward” and hurry past these days - tired of the uncertainty, the anger, and the fear. We confess that we don’t understand the vastness of your creation or the wisdom of your timing and plan for the future. Forgive us when we place our trust in our limited human understanding instead of in You. Forgive us when we don’t recognize the holy and the blessings present in our lives even today. Help us use our God-given time wisely, looking to You for wisdom, for hope, and for guidance, today and tomorrow. We pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20

SERMON *"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."* Luke 2:20

HYMN # 31 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose
again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offering - "The gift that keeps on giving...memories"

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
(Matthew 6:9-13)

Hymn # 38 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

HYMN # 9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O Come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel Shall come to the, O Israel!

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all, be with you all.
The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Two French Noels” - Corneille/Franck

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE THIS WEEK

Temple Keeper: Ed Holzman (on or before 8/1)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES The office is PHYSICALLY closed as we continue to be a part of the effort of keeping our congregation and community safe. Kara will continue to be available by telephone and email during regular church hours (Mon.- Thurs., 9:00am to 2:00pm), and the mail will continue to be picked up regularly. If there is a need, don't hesitate to contact us. Meals on Wheels will continue to prepare food on Wednesdays, but we encourage all other groups to refrain from gathering until further notice. Please continue to pray and know you are being prayed for. God bless!

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE Beth-el is in need of **volunteers** to sort food and make up bags of food on Mondays and Wednesday. They also need help distributing the food bags on Tuesdays. This is a great opportunity for Youth to get service hours! If you are interested, please contact Deb Thatcher at 813-240-1751 and leave a message.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH! We are so grateful for your faithful giving! You can continue to give through the mail; by setting up “Bill Pay” with your bank; and now you can make a secure gift on our website. May God continue to bless you, as you continue to be a blessing to others!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUE - Join us for Children's Zoom Sunday school - say “Hi!” To your friends, have fun with games, and learn more about being a child of God!

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR FREE THE GIRLS AND SOCK-IT TO BETH-EL - New or gently used bras and new socks may be dropped off at the church in the container provided in the fellowship hall on Wednesday morning: they may be left out on a bench in the court yard too.

EGG CARTON COLLECTION is an ongoing ministry. The cartons are taken to E.C.H.O. to be used for distribution of eggs to families when picking up food. Currently the cartons may be left on any of the benches around the court yard at the church. Upon returning to the church, a plastic silver container is available for collection, inside the front entry to the fellowship hall.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 26, 2020

11:00 am Worship Service Online Live

12:30 pm Zoom Sunday School

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

8:30 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, August 2, 2020

11:00 am Worship Service Online Live

12:30 pm Zoom Sunday School

A HOPEFUL LOOK AHEAD

- July 26- Sunday Worship Online Live, Zoom Sunday School
29- Meals on Wheels
- August 2 - Sunday Worship Online Live, Zoom Sunday School
3 - Committees Meet Virtually
4 - Zoom Session Meeting
5 - Meals on Wheels
9 - Sunday Worship Online Live, Zoom Sunday School
12 - Meals on Wheels
16 - Sunday Worship Online Live with Communion, Zoom Sunday School
19 - Meals on Wheels
23 - Sunday Worship Online Live, Zoom Sunday School
26 - Meals on Wheels
30 - Sunday Worship Online Live, Zoom Sunday School

PRAISES and CONCERNS

Pray at all times in the Spirit...Ephesians 6:18a

Our ministry is to pray for our members who are hospitalized, ill, home bound, attending college, and in the military; and to also encourage others to send cards, make a phone call or visit if possible. If you do not have a directory or need an address not listed, please contact the church office, we will be happy to help.

Rob Bargo

Susan Kriska

Jim Barfield

Robert Lavazza

Tammy Wooster

Bonnie & John Taylor

Bill Worth

Terry Cooney

Charles Brandt

George Kosan

Bob Stetler

Joy Lavazza

Healthcare Workers: Mazen Al-Alawi, Waleska Alvarado, Jenny Carswell, Lexi Crawford, Allie Abrams Downey, Maggie Hehn, Patricia Hudson, Cheryl High Sawyer, Joelle Vlahakis

College: Kai Abe, Elizabeth Banks, Michaela Brushwood, Danh Cooney, Michael Hawkins, Christian Jaimungal, Rachel Kosan, Peter Lapham, Amber Todd, Jenny Todd

Military: Jeff Mason Jr., Diego Rincon, Justin Ernul, Wyatt Harris, Michael Paynter, Sherryn Ramkarran, Aaron Sampson