

Worship Service ~ *Now That He's Here*

First Sunday of Christmas, Year A,

28th December, 2025

Matthew 1:18-25 / Luke 2:22-38

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,

Gathering Together

Welcome

Good morning, my name is *[say your first name]*. It's my pleasure to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church.

Please stand with me, if you're able, and hear the Lord call us into worship.

Call to Worship

One: Lift up your hearts in prayer:

All: We lift up our voices in praise.

One: Let your eyes rise in expectation

All: with our hands in exultation,

One: for the Lord has drawn near and dwells among us.

All: We lift them up. Amen.

Invocation

O Lord Jesus, God incarnate, who assumed this humble form,
counsel us and let our wishes to your perfect will conform.

Light of life, dispel our darkness, strengthen us through your frailty ;

let your meekness give us boldness, let your burden set us free;

let your sadness give us gladness, let your death be life for all to see. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Hark the Herald Angels Sing ~ 201

Engaging with God Together

Scripture Reading ~ Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Let's greet one another with the peace of Christ as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Sharing Announcements and Prayer Requests

In a moment we are going to pray together, but before we do, does anyone have any announcements to share about anything in the life of the church coming up?

[let people share announcements]

Does anyone have any joys or concerns to share?

[let people share prayer items]

Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence ~ 463

Hearing the Word Together

Sermon Passage ~ Luke 2:22-38

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23** (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) **24** and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” **25** Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. **26** And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. **27** And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, **28** he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation

31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. **34** And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed **35** (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, **37** and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. **38** And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Sermon ~ *Now That He's Here*
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Jonny Finlayson

Responding to the Word Together

Call to Serve

A Time for Reflection

Played by church musician Annie Center,

Closing Hymn

***O Come All Ye Faithful* ~ 212**

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Postlude

Played by church musician Annie Center,

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