

ON CHRISTMAS DAY, 1863, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was depressed. His beloved wife had died in a house fire two years earlier and his son had been severely wounded in the Civil War. In the depths of his sadness over the on-going war, the state of the world and his own personal pain, he penned a Christmas poem that reflected his hope in the power of God in the midst of all the strife. If sadness weighs heavily on our hearts this Christmas, we too can find hope in the sovereign Lord who will one day right all wrongs and reign over heaven and earth.

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
“There is no peace of earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Peace revealing Christmastide

Author unknown

Christmas candles ©karandaev/Stock • Printed in USA



Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

December 18, 2022

Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope

Invocation

Pastor Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #249 O' Come All Ye Faithful

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn #265 The First Noel

Offertory Prayer

Craig Alexander

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sermon: "What the World Needs Now..."

Pastor Don Mauldin

Scripture: Galatians 5:22

Hymn of Benediction

Hymn # 261 Away in a Manger

Pastor Don Mauldin

352-262-5349

Covenant News

Our ministry for December is Helping Hands Clinic. The clinic is staffed by social workers, registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, physicians, and community service volunteers.

Mark Your Calendar

We will be having a Christmas Eve Service
-at 5:00 p.m. and no Sunday morning service.



True Christian Christmas

Christmas isn't showy gifts, or glittering decoration;
It's honoring, Jesus Christ in humble adoration.

It's serving those less fortunate,
meeting their needs before our own;
It's making sure at Christmas time that no one is alone.

It's taking what we would have spent on things
that no one needs,
And using it to help someone in service and need.