

CHRISTMAS | *At Christmas, we remember and celebrate the nativity of Christ and the mystery of the incarnation. Whereas during Advent we anticipate the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah, at Christmas we identify with the angels who proclaimed, “Glory to God in the highest”; with the shepherds, who were afraid but nevertheless offered worship; and with Mary, who pondered the meaning of these events in her heart.*

prelude

As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.

preparing our hearts

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

— Luke 2:13-14^{ESV}

** call to worship

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

All: We worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Leader: The voice of the LORD is powerful;

All: The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

Leader: The LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

All: May the LORD give strength to his people!

Leader: May the LORD bless his people with peace!

— Based on Psalm 29^{ESV}

** Please stand if you are able

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: ANTIOCH, George Frideric Handel, adapted by Lowell Mason. Public Domain.

****prayer of invocation**

Leader: God of our hope and salvation: For those who seek a Savior, lead them to that lowly manger, to the child born to bring freedom and forgiveness. For those who seek assurance, lead them to the Light of the World who opens eyes to understanding, hearts to God's Word, and souls to the truth. For those who seek forgiveness, lead them to a grace beyond comprehension, to wholeness, healing, and peace. Draw near to us as we draw near to you in worship. Let us see that you are great, and let your greatness order our thinking, our feeling, our wanting, and our living. By the grace of the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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 as man with men 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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn. Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Look down from heaven and see, from your holy and beautiful habitation.
For you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

— Based on Isaiah 63:15-16 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ,

We confess our poor sense of direction, and our feet falter in the dim lights we follow into paths not meant for us to tread. We let ourselves become confused and easily distracted, and we lose our way. You have given us instruction and revealed your very Word, but we fail to follow the signs you provide.

Yet we are angry that we are lost, surprised that we have stumbled, and discouraged by our failures. So we retreat to the shadows of sin and foolishness.

Forgive our waywardness, O God. Forgive our stubborn squint that would rather stagger around in our own wisdom rather than sprint and bound in the grace you so readily give. These mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, to whom you lead us that we might know the Way to you.

Amen.

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

— Romans 5:1 ESV

All: Thanks be to God!

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOR

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising heavenward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

Words: Frank Houghton, © 2007 Thankyou Music. CCLI #3022711, #20579701, Song #6224404.
Music: FRAGRANCE, French carol. Public Domain.

An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.

Leader: All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,
**All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

children's message

WHIT ANDERSON

** passing the peace

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

If you would like to hear more about CPC or would like to let us know of a prayer need, please include your contact information or prayer request in the welcome pad when it comes around to you.

An elder will lead the passing of the peace. If you are joining us from your home, please unmute yourself so that you can greet one another. If you are gathered here with us today, greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ.

Series | “Jesus Our King”

Sermon | “The Joy Christ Brings”

DANIEL MCDOWELL

December 25, 2022

Psalm 98_{ESV}

1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

2 The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!

8 Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together

9 before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

**** affirmation of faith**

Leader: Christian, do you believe and trust in God the Father, who because of his great love did send his only begotten Son to take on flesh in union with mankind?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who graciously represented mankind before the Father in perfect obedience and in perfect atonement, reconciling us to God?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who mercifully breathes life into those dead in sin, that they might know the Father and believe the Son unto salvation?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians — a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. Once you are finished with your cup, please pass it to the inside aisles and the ushers will retrieve them.

If you have a gluten allergy, there are gluten-free wafers available in the center of the bread trays. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymn.

NOTE TO PARENTS: *To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.*

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing,

All: (*singing Gloria Patri*)

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly
Ghost; as it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and e - ver shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

– Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

Minister: Let us pray.

All: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But it is your right, O God, to give mercy to whom you please. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink of him, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood; that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

As the elements are distributed, sing as one body, affirming that in Christ we are united to him and to one another.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste! Haste! to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail! Hail! the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy! Joy! for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Words: William Chatterton Dix; Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th century English melody. Public Domain.

The offering is a vital part of our response to God's grace provided for us in the preaching of his word and administration of the Lord's Supper. Our tithes and offerings represent the entirety of our lives being consecrated to the Lord Jesus Christ and the coming of His kingdom to this world. As God's grace is freely given to us, so our gifts are freely returned, and in no way add to but are only a response to the supremely adequate work of Christ's atonement.

HIS LOVE CAN NEVER FAIL

I do not ask to see the way my feet will have to tread;
But only that my soul may feed upon the living Bread.
'Tis better far that I should walk by faith close to his side;
I may not know the way I go, but oh, I know my Guide. *

** Chorus:*

His love can never fail, his love can never fail,
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail.
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail.

And if my feet would go astray, they cannot, for I know
That Jesus guides my faltering steps, as joyfully I go.
And tho' I may not see his face, my faith is strong and clear,
That in each hour of sore distress my Savior will be near. *

I will not fear, tho' darkness come abroad o'er all the land,
If I may only feel the touch of his own loving hand.
And tho' I tremble when I think how weak I am, and frail,
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail. *

"His Love Can Never Fail," Words: E. S. Hall, Public Domain. Music: Christopher Miner.
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announcements

**** benediction**

****doxology**

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

for first-time visitors

Whether you are visiting us from out of town or looking for a church to call home, we're so glad to have you with us. Please fill out the welcome pad when it comes to you.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Children's worship is on break until **January 1**. We look forward to seeing the children in class in the new year!

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER BBQ FUNDRAISER

Please plan to attend a barbecue fundraiser benefiting the Pregnancy Help Center of Williamson County after the worship service **Sunday, January 15**, until **2p** at the Georgetown Community Center located in San Gabriel Park (445 E. Morrow St.), serving Pok-e-Jo's and all the fixings! You are invited to come & go, dine-in or take it home!

giving statements

Your CPC giving statement showing contributions made through November 30, 2022 was emailed to you on Tuesday, December 13 along with a letter from Pastor Whit.

year-end giving

In order to be deductible on your 2022 tax return, contributions must be received or postmarked no later than **Saturday, December 31**. If you have questions about year-end giving or any other giving-related question, please **contact Sonya Dewitt** (finance@cpcgeorgetown.org).

get connected with a community group

Community Groups at CPC provide a place to apply the gospel to our daily lives. The implications of our life with Christ are so broad that we rarely understand them by ourselves. As we remind one another about grace, we help each other to open our lives to transformation according to God's purposes. If you are interested in joining a community group or getting more information, **contact Daniel McDowell** (daniel@cpcgeorgetown.org), or **Larry Lorimor** (larry.lorimor@gmail.com).