

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 20, 2020

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 24 (p. 791)

The earth is the LORD’S, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

**for he founded it upon the seas and
established it upon the waters.**

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.**

He will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God his Savior.

**Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.**

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

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

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God, we are reminded this morning of your divine purpose for the incarnation: that in the fullness of time, you sent forth your Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem us and grant us adoption as your children.

All: We are grieved that our condition was so sinful that it required nothing less than the humiliation and death of your only begotten Son. We confess that though you have blessed us with eternal riches in Christ, we have sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Cause us to continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the Gospel.

All: We ask all this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:2-5

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Matthew 2:1-15

Congregational Response

Hymn 203

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 th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris’n 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.” Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 106. *For what do we pray in the sixth petition?*

A. In the sixth petition, which is, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,” we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

Q. 107. *What does the conclusion of the Lord’s Prayer teach us?*

A. The conclusion of the Lord’s Prayer, which is, “For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen,” teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him; and in testimony of our desire and assurance to be heard, we say, “Amen.”

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.

Lord’s Prayer*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Luke 2:1-21

Congregational Response

Hymn 214

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Clayton Willis

“Sin and Separation: A Savior Born”
Luke 2:1-7

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 201

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father,
praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit,
three in One,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

SERMON NOTES

“Sin and Separation: A Savior Born” Luke 2:1-7

1. The World’s View of Jesus’ Birth
 Luke 2:8-20
 Matthew 2:16
 John 1:10

2. The Angelic View of Jesus’ Birth
 Revelation 2:5

A set of 28 horizontal lines provided for writing.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Christmas is known as a time of joy and happiness, but we need to be sure that our joy and happiness is celebrated for the right reasons. When the angels appeared to the shepherds outside Bethlehem they came to bring “good news of great joy.” Philip Ryken, in his commentary on Luke, reminds us of this truth when he writes:

The joyful good news was about the birth of a baby: “For unto you is born this day” (Luke 2:11). By the time we get to the end of Luke, we will discover that the good news also includes a death and a resurrection. It is the gospel of the cross and the empty tomb. But here we are given the good news of the manger. A child is born! A Son is given! The angel was making a birth announcement about a boy of flesh and blood.

Our Christmas celebrations are joyful because they celebrate the birth of our Savior, as well as His atoning death and resurrection. Christmas joy encompasses the full and completed work of Jesus Christ from manger to empty tomb.

1. Think back over the past 3 advent sermons. How did each sermon trace God’s plan of redemption from Genesis 3 to Luke 1? How did today’s sermon complete the story of redemption?
2. Read Matthew 2:1-23. How does Matthew show how not only Jesus’ birth but other surrounding events are the fulfillment of prophecy? Why is this important for our faith?
3. How does the birth of Jesus display God’s attributes of love, grace, mercy, sovereignty, and omnipotence?

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.
Use our church directory to pray for an individual or family each day.*

Monday, December 21

Scripture: Zechariah 1:1-21; Revelation 12:1-17; Psalm 140:1-13; Proverbs 30:17

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 1

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, December 22

Scripture: Zechariah 2:1 - 3:10; Revelation 13:1-18; Psalm 141:1-10; Prov. 30:18-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 75

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, December 23

Scripture: Zechariah 4:1 - 5:11; Revelation 14:1-20; Psalm 142:1-7; Proverbs 30:21-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 76

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Antigua and Barbuda and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, December 24

Scripture: Zechariah 6:1 - 7:14; Revelation 15:1-8; Psalm 143:1-12; Proverbs 30:24-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 77

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, December 25

Scripture: Zechariah 8:1-23; Revelation 16:1-21; Psalm 144:1-15; Proverbs 30:29-31

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 78

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, December 26

Scripture: Zechariah 9:1-17; Revelation 17:1-18; Psalm 145:1-21; Proverbs 30:32

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 79

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, December 27

Scripture: Zechariah 10:1 - 11:17; Revelation 18:1-24; Psalm 146:1-10; Proverbs 30:33

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 80

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.

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