

SEASON OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 10, 2023

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

by John W. Work

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

Go tell it on the mountain
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CALL TO WORSHIP - From Micah 4

Leader: It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say:

People: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

Leader: For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

People: He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;

Leader: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore;

All: but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

by C. Frederick Oakeley and John Francis Wade

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God
All Glory in the highest

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Yea Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory given
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

by Gerard Moultrie and Hugh S. Livingston

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, Yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood; He will give to all the faithful His own self for food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of light descendeth From the realms of endless day, That the powers of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim, with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to His presence As with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord Most High!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF SIN

O God of all grace, we confess that we are sinners, but in Christ you have given us a Savior. Produce in us a faith to live by him, to make him our desire, our hope, our glory.

Preserve us by his grace from this present evil world, so that its smiles never allure us, its frowns never terrify us, its vices never defile us, its errors never delude us. Cause us to live faithfully as strangers and pilgrims in this city of man, knowing that our true citizenship is in the city of God, so that all we do may be done to the Savior's glory; in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: The maker of heaven and earth!

Minister: O Lord, open our lips,

People: And our mouths will declare Your praise!

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

by Charles Wesley and Greg Thompson

Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly, While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior, hide, 'Til life's storm is past; Safe into the haven guide; Receive my soul at last. Other refuge have I none, I helpless, hang on Thee; Leave, oh leave me not alone, Still support and comfort me. All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
In the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want,
Here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.

Just and holy is Thy Name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am;
Thou art full of truth and grace.

GREETING

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us share His peace with one another.

Children may leave for lesson (ages 4-6).

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As the leader directs, the congregation is invited to pray for those for whom they are burdened.

Pray aloud and by name or silently if you prefer.

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 130

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

"From the Depths of Woe" (Psalm 130)

Words: Martin Luther

Music: Christopher Miner

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee, The voice of lamentation; Lord, turn a gracious ear to me And hear my supplication; If Thou iniquities dost mark, Our secret sins and misdeeds dark.

O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?) O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)

To wash away the crimson stain, Grace, grace alone availeth; Our works, alas! Are all in vain; In much the best life faileth; No man can glory in Thy sight, All must alike confess Thy might.

And live alone by mercy
(Live alone by mercy)
And live alone by mercy
(Live alone by mercy)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord, And not in mine own merit; On Him my soul shall rest, His word Upholds my fainting spirit; His promised mercy is my fort, My comfort and my sweet support.

I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience)
I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience)

Though great our sins and sore our woes His grace much more aboundeth; His helping love no limit knows, Our upmost need it soundeth. Our Shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free.

From all their sin and sorrow
(All their sin and sorrow)
From all their sin and sorrow
(All their sin and sorrow)

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

CONFESSION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the onlybegotten Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you!

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Wine is in the outer circles of cups; the inner circle contains grape juice. Gluten-free bread is in its own tray.

As the usher directs, please come forward one row at a time to pick up your cups.

Please hold your elements until all are served so that we may all partake together, as one body.

"Behold the Lamb"

by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us – and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.

So we share in this Bread of Life, And we drink of His sacrifice As a sign of our bonds of peace Around the table of the King. The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,

Torn for you – eat and remember

The wounds that heal,

the death that brings us life

Paid the price to make us one.

So we share in this Bread of Life, And we drink of His sacrifice As a sign of our bonds of love Around the table of the King. The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,

Shed for you – drink and remember

He drained death's cup that all may enter in

To receive the life of God.

So we share in this Bread of Life, And we drink of His sacrifice As a sign of our bonds of grace Around the table of the King. And so with thankfulness and faith we rise

To respond, – and to remember

Our call to follow in the steps of Christ

As His body here on earth.

As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

THE SENDING - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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