



CHRIST THE KING
— PRESBYTERIAN —

CHRISTMAS SEASON – DECEMBER 31, 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
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 148:9-14

Leader: *Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!*

People: Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

Leader: *Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!*

People: Young men and maidens together, old
men and children!

Leader: *Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;*

People: his majesty is above earth and heaven.

Leader: *He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel
who are near to him.*

All: Praise the Lord!

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

by Lewis Henry Redner and Phillips Brooks

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 wondering 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 given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven

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

“Brightest and Best”

Words: Reginald Heber

Music: Southern Harmony, arr. J. Bennetch

Hail the blest morn, see the great mediator
Down from the regions of glory descend.
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger
Lo for His guard the bright angels attend.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch, and Savior of all.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom, and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 4:17-32

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord!*

People: Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Across the barriers that divide
cultures and classes:

reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide
ethnicities and families:

reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide sexes
and generations:

reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide
Christians and churches:

reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Confront us, O Christ, with the hidden apathy, hostility, and fear that hinder and betray our prayers. Free us from bondage to the sins of others. Enable us to see the causes of strife, and remove from us all senses of superiority and entitlement. Teach us to grow in unity with all God's children. 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!

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Traditional Polish Carol

Infant holy, infant lowly
For His bed a cattle stall
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all

Swift are winging, angels singing
Noels ringing, tidings bringing
Christ the babe is Lord of all
Christ the babe is Lord of all

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story
Tidings of a gospel true

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow
Praises voicing, greet the morrow
Christ the babe was born for you
Christ the babe was born for you

Infant holy, infant lowly
For His bed a cattle stall
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all

Swift are winging, angels singing
Noels ringing, tidings bringing
Christ the babe is Lord of all
Christ the babe is Lord of all

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 133

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord!*

People: Thanks be to God!

“Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven”

by Henry F. Lyte and John Goss

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me, his praises sing?

Praise Him, Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!
Praise Him, Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor
To our fathers in distress.
Praise him, still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Praise Him, Praise Him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!
Praise Him, Praise Him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.

Praise Him, Praise Him!
Widely yet his mercy flows!
Praise Him, Praise Him!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.

Praise Him, Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!
Praise Him, Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism - Q&A 1

Q. *What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

(cont.)

He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

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.

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

by Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

THE SENDING - Romans 15:5-7

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

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



CHRIST THE KING
— PRESBYTERIAN —

CHRISTMAS SEASON – DECEMBER 31, 2023