

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 25, 2022

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 99 (p. 820 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble;

**he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.**

Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.

**Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy.**

The King is mighty, he loves justice—

**you have established equity;**

in Jacob you have done what is just and right.

**Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.**

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name;

**they called on the LORD and he answered them.**

He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;

**they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.**

O LORD our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds.

**Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain,  
for the LORD our God is holy.**

\* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

***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.*

**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 save us from our sins.

**All:** We confess that though you have blessed us with eternal riches in Christ, we have preferred the ways of this world. We have rebelled against your wisdom and sought after foolishness. We have rejected your fatherly commands and have done what is right in our own eyes.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray, and assure us of your forgiveness. Help us to lay aside the sin which clings so closely, and give us the strength we need to run with endurance the race that is set before us.

**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**

Matthew 1:20-21

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Isaiah 46

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 Nicene Creed (p. 846)*

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 only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

### Gloria Patri\*

Hymn 735

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 1:26-38

Congregational Response

Hymn 208

### *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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.*

God of God, Light of Light;  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:  
Very God, begotten, not created;  
*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,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God 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 giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Late in flesh appearing;  
*O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Immanuel: God with Us”  
Matthew 1:18-25

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 195

### *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.

**Benediction\***

**Congregational Benediction Response\***

Hymn 218

***Angels, from the Realms of Glory***

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant Light:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen his natal star:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Evermore your voices raising  
To th'eternal Three in One:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King. Amen.*







# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.*

## **Monday, December 26**

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 7

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

## **Tuesday, 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 63

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

## **Wednesday, December 28**

Scripture: Zechariah 12:1 - 13:9; Revelation 19:1-21; Psalm 147:1-20; Proverbs 31:1-7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 64

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.  
The churches in Laos and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, December 29**

Scripture: Zechariah 14:1-21; Revelation 20:1-15; Psalm 148:1-14; Proverbs 31:8-9

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 65

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

## **Friday, December 30**

Scripture: Malachi 1:1 - 2:17; Revelation 21:1-27; Psalm 149:1-9; Proverbs 31:10-24

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 66

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.

## **Saturday, December 31**

Scripture: Malachi 3:1 - 4:6; Revelation 22:1-21; Psalm 150:1-6; Proverbs 31:25-31

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 67

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

## **Sunday, January 1**

Scripture: Genesis 1:1 - 2:25; Matthew 1:1 - 2:12; Psalm 1:1-6; Proverbs 1:1-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 68

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.*

**Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize**

followtruth99@gmail.com

**Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda**

ebyuganda@gmail.com

We are no longer supporting the Dahlfreds financially. If you would like to receive their prayer letters directly, please email Karl Dahlfred and request to be added to their mailing list (karlandsun@dahlfred.com).

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In Matthew 1:18-25, we read about Joseph's anguish over Mary's pregnancy. He had desired to marry her, but when he found out she was pregnant, he resolved to divorce her quietly. It wasn't until an angel appeared to him in a vision and explained the divine origin of Mary's pregnancy that Joseph decided to remain betrothed to Mary and in doing so, to be the legal father of Jesus. We see in this Joseph's honorable character and desire to obey the Lord. We see also in this the doctrine of our Lord's divine conception. William Hendriksen, in his commentary on Matthew, explains the importance of this doctrine:

If Christ had been the son of Joseph and Mary by ordinary generation, would he not have been a human person and as such a sharer in Adam's guilt; hence, a sinner, unable to save himself, hence also unable to rescue others from sin? In order to save us, the Redeemer must in one Person be both God and man, sinless man. The doctrine of the virgin birth satisfies both of these requirements. It reveals to us Jesus Christ, one divine Person with two natures: a. divine, b. sinless human.

And as a sinless human, Jesus was our Second Adam. He obeyed God perfectly and secured the salvation of his people. All praise and all glory be to him!

1. Read Luke 1:1 - 2:38. This long passage contains all of the advent songs we learned about over the past 4 Sundays (Mary's, Zechariah's, the angels', and Simeon's). As you read each song, try to recall the important spiritual truths we learned from each song and spend time thanking the Lord for what is revealed in each song about Christ.
2. Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 47 asks: How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth? Before you read the answer, think about how you would answer this yourself. What can you learn in your own life from Christ's example of willing humility?

(Here is the answer to the Larger Catechism's question: "Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, he was pleased in the fullness of time to become the son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her; with divers circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.")