

 **GRACE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# WORSHIP SERVICE

December 22, 2024

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:14**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

**Greeting and Blessing\***

**Responsive Reading\***

Psalm 85 (p. 814 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

You showed favor to your land, O LORD;

**you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.

**You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.**

Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.

**Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?**

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

**Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.**

I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints—  
but let them not return to folly.

**Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

**Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.**

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

*The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.*

*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 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 cleanse us from our sins. Work in us by your Word and Spirit, and give us both the desire and the power to do what pleases you.

**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\*

Luke 2:8-21

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. 45.** *What is the first commandment?*

**A.** The first commandment is: “You shall have no other gods before me.”

**Q. 46.** *What is required in the first commandment?*

**A.** The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

**Q. 47.** *What is forbidden in the first commandment?*

**A.** The first commandment forbids the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving to any other of that worship and glory due to him alone.

**Q. 48.** *What are we especially taught by the words, “before me,” in the first commandment?*

**A.** These words, “before me,” in the first commandment teach us that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

## 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.

❖ *Tithes and offerings may be placed in the box at the entrance to the sanctuary or given online through our church's website.*

# THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading\*

Luke 2:22-38

Congregational Response

(music is printed on p. 12)

## *Song of Simeon*

Now may your servant, Lord,  
According to your Word,  
Depart in exaltation.  
My peace shall be serene,  
For now my eyes have seen  
Your wonderful salvation.

O Lord, you did prepare  
For people ev'rywhere  
A Light for revelation,  
And radiant glory shall  
The gloom of death dispel  
For Israel, your nation. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Our Savior, Who Is Christ the Lord”  
Luke 2:8-14

## **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 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 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 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.*



# SERMON NOTES

“Our Savior, Who Is Christ the Lord”  
Luke 2:8-14

1. Jesus is the Savior.  
Matthew 1:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 1:10
2. Jesus is the Christ.  
1 Samuel 16:13; Luke 4:16-21
3. Jesus is Lord.  
Acts 2:36; Philippians 2:11

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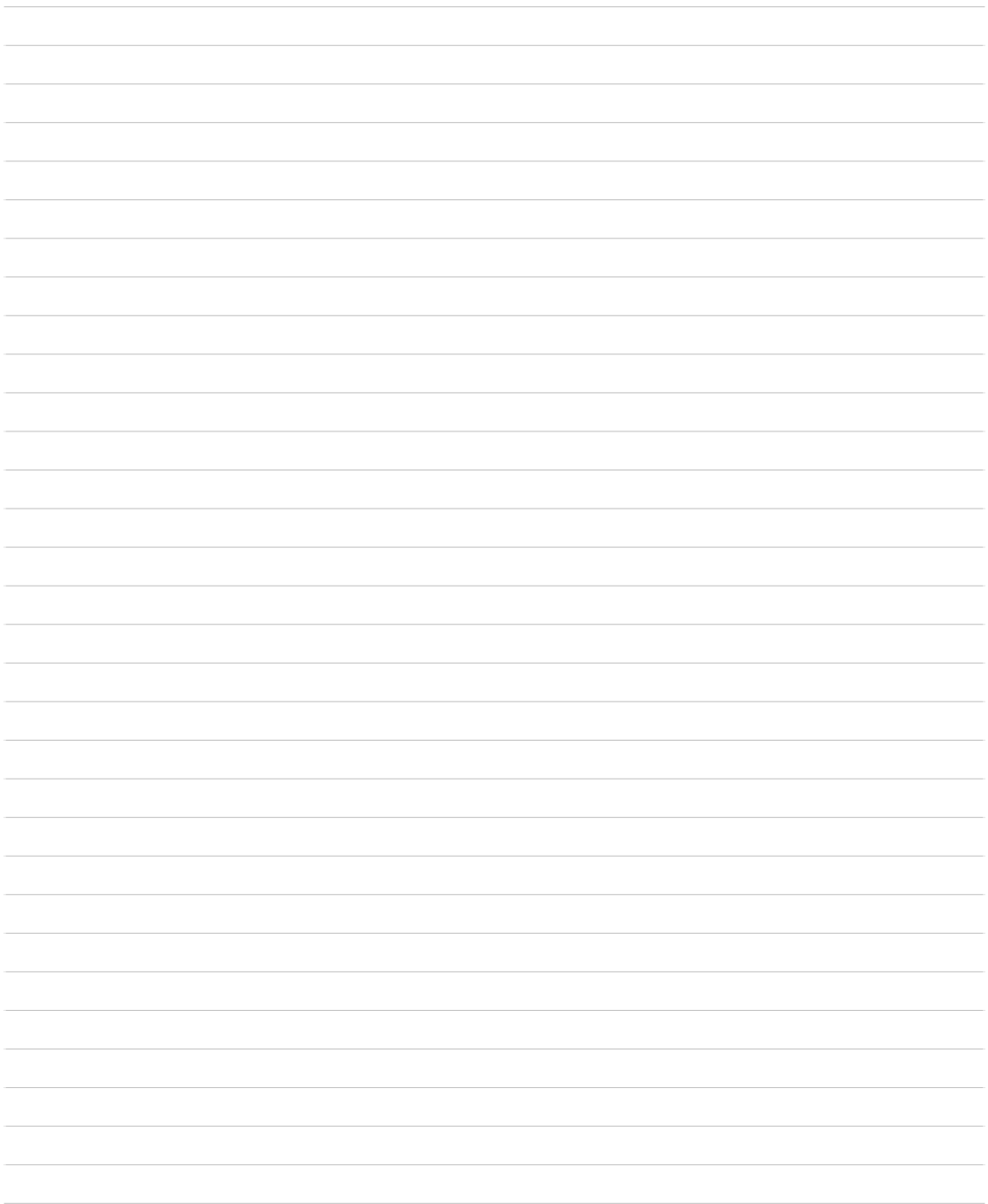
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# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

## **Monday, December 23**

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 12

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

## **Tuesday, 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 45

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

## **Wednesday, 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 46

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Tanzania and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, 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 47

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

## **Friday, 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 48

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

The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

## **Saturday, 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 49

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

## **Sunday, 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 50

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 in Belize**

**Dave Eby in Uganda**

**Christ Bible Institute in Japan**

**The Shepherd's Church in Riverside**

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Luke chapters 1-2 record Jesus' incarnation, and what is notable in both chapters is the presence of angels. An angel revealed to Zechariah that his son, John, would be a prophet heralding the coming of the Lord. An angel revealed to Mary that she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that her child would be the holy Son of God. An angel appeared to the shepherds and told them the gospel: that the Savior was born in Bethlehem. And suddenly more angels appeared, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14).

It is clear through all these accounts that God was drawing the world's attention to Christ, the promised Savior. Angels serve as God's messengers, and this was the most important message that they had ever carried: that the time had been fulfilled and the Savior was born. We are familiar with the wise advice of vetting new information that we should always consider the source. Is it a reliable source? Is it a trustworthy source? If we apply that to the opening chapters of Luke, we see how God used the messengers of heaven who are trustworthy and reliable to bring this good news to all mankind. He calls us now to look to Christ in faith, and to trust in him as our Lord and Savior.

1. Read Luke 1:67-80. How is Jesus' saving work described? What does the Bible mean when it describes Jesus as Savior? What do we need to be saved from?
2. Read Luke 4:14-30. How does this passage reveal that Jesus was the Christ (the "Anointed One")? Why do you think those in the synagogue responded so violently?
3. Read Philippians 2:5-11. How does the Apostle Paul describe the lordship of Jesus?
4. How do the three titles of Jesus that you learned about in the sermon encourage you? How do they challenge you in your discipleship? How do they embolden you in your evangelism?
5. Read Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 8 (Christ the Mediator). How does section 2 describe the human and divine natures of Christ? What blessings for believers are outlined in section 5?

## Song of Simeon

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1. Now may your ser - vant, Lord, ac - cord - ing to your Word,  
 2. O Lord, you did pre - pare for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where

de - part in ex - al - ta - tion. My peace shall be se - rene,  
 a Light for rev - e - la - tion, and ra - diant glo - ry shall

for now my eyes have seen your won - der - ful sal - va - tion.  
 the gloom of death dis - pel for Is - ra - el, your na - tion.

Luke 2:29–32  
 Dewey Westra, 1931; alt.

NUNC DIMITTIS 6.6.7.D.  
 Louis Bourgeois, 1551  
 Harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564



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