

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.

Psalm 117:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 115 (p. 827)

Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.

Why do the nations say, “Where is their God?”

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men.

They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see;

they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell;

they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk, nor can they utter a sound with their throats.

Those who make them will be like them,

and so will all who trust in them.

O house of Israel, trust in the LORD—he is their help and shield.

O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD—he is their help and shield.

You who fear him, trust in the LORD—he is their help and shield.

The LORD remembers us and will bless us:

He will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron,

he will bless those who fear the LORD—small and great alike.

May the LORD make you increase, both you and your children.

May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to man.

It is not the dead who praise the Lord, those who go down to silence;

it is we who extol the LORD, both now and forevermore.

Praise the LORD.

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

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

In every land begin the song;
To every land the strains belong.
In cheerful sound all voices raise
And fill the world with joyful praise.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends your word.
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we praise you for the loving kindness you have shown us in Jesus Christ. While we were still sinners, he died for us.

All: Forgive us, O Lord, for our many sins. We confess that we are guilty of pride and unbelief, of anger and lust. We have sinned against you by breaking your commandments and by wasting your good gifts to us. Our transgressions are ever before us, and they weigh heavy on our hearts.

Leader: Grant us repentant hearts to understand the sinfulness of our sins but also the assurance of forgiveness that comes by faith in the Lord Jesus. We thank you that our sins will not be counted against us, because they all have been laid upon Christ.

All: All praise to you, O God, for such wondrous grace! We are loved with an everlasting love! Grant that we, by your Spirit, may live daily unto you and may seek to glorify you in thought, word, and deed. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Luke 1:26-56

Congregational Response

Hymn 94 (stanzas 1-3, 6)

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.” 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 1:57-80

Congregational Response

Hymn 32

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Clayton Willis

“The Coming of the Messiah”
Luke 1:26-80

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 30 (stanzas 1, 3, 5, 7)

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
with all their lives and cares,
are carried downward by your flood,
and lost in following years.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come:
O be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

May the peace of God, our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God, the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings.*

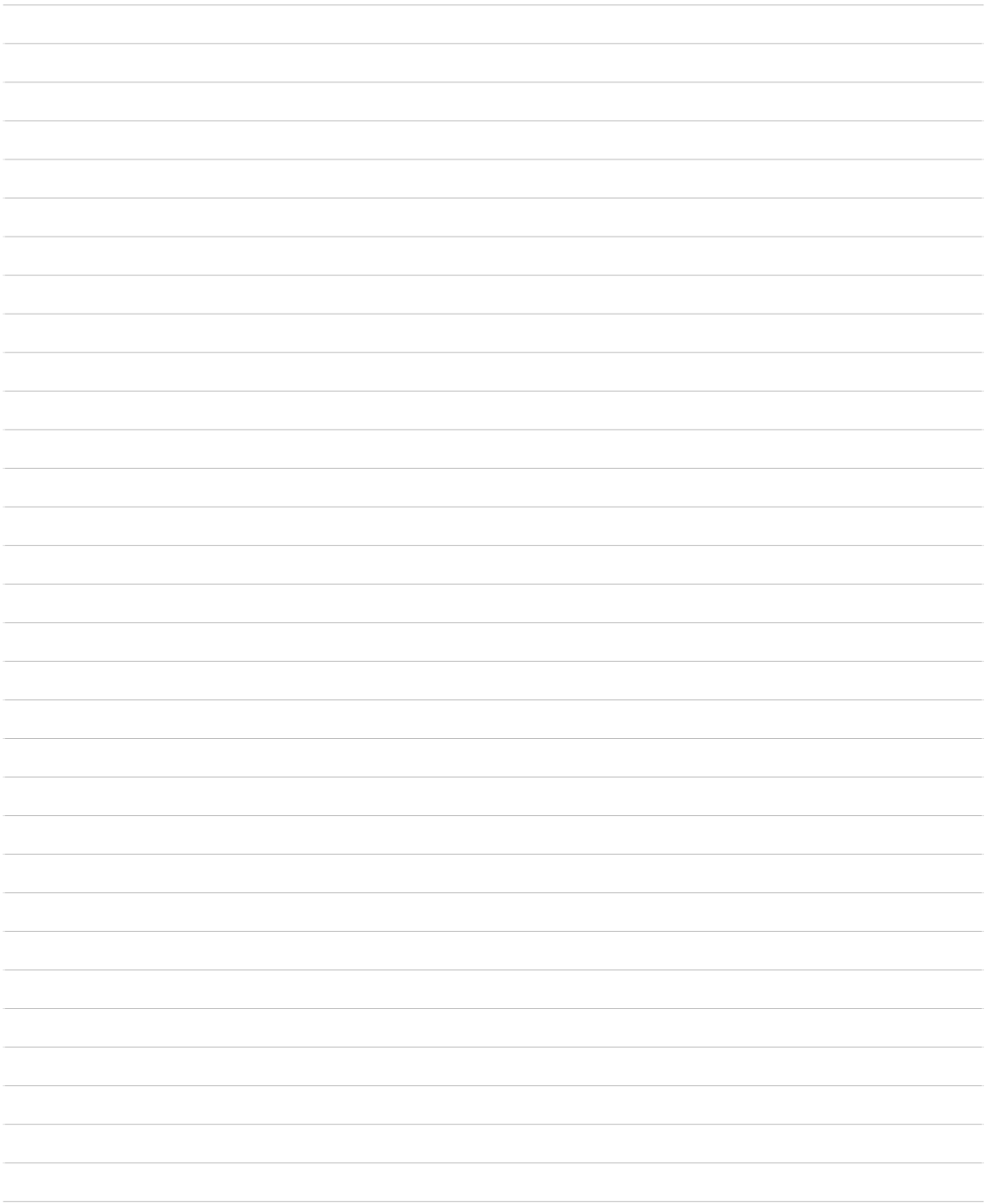
May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his communion,
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

*And to him be praise for his glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings. Amen.*

SERMON NOTES

“The Coming of the Messiah”
Luke 1:26-80

1. Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel.
2. Mary visits with Zechariah and Elizabeth.
3. The Messiah is for all peoples.



HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, December 27

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 21

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

Tuesday, 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 72

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

Wednesday, 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 73

Pray for: Our covenant children, and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in the Dominican Republic and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, 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 74

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

Friday, 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 75

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

Our pregnant mom.

Saturday, 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 76

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

Sunday, January 2

Scripture: Genesis 3:1 - 4:26; Matthew 2:13 - 3:6; Psalm 2:1-12; Proverbs 1:7-9

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 77

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

rcall@mtwsa.org; mcall@mtwsa.org

Karl & Sun Dahlfred | OMF International in Thailand

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Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda

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EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

Greeting and Call to Worship*

Psalm 145:1-7

Leader: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

All: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Hymn*

“O Father, You Are Sovereign” Hymn 75

Congregational Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have rebelled against your truth. We have rejected your fatherly commands and have done what is right in our own eyes. Forgive us, we pray, and cause us to walk in your ways. Give us a growing desire to joyfully serve you and one another as we follow after our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hymn

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” Hymn 468

Scripture Reading*

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Hymn

“Be Still, My Soul” Hymn 689

Prayer

Sermon

“Prayer on the Borderlines”
Ephesians 3:14-19

Rudy Manrique

Hymn*

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” Hymn 646

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit, be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in Three and Three in One. Amen.